

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

# SOCCER



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## ERICSSON CUP TRANSFERS



THE FULL LIST  
SO FAR  
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**SOUTH'S  
MILLION  
DOLLAR  
PAY DAY**



**INTERNATIONAL  
RESULTS  
AND  
TABLES**



## AUSTRALIA'S NEW COACH



# FRANK'S GOAL



By John Economos

**F**rank Farina, born in Darwin some 34 years ago but raised in Cairns, had absolutely no illusions whatsoever as to what his real mission was from the moment he was officially appointed Australia's new coach.

Get Australia to the World Cup Finals.

Not any World Cup finals, but the very NEXT ONE.

Swarmed by the media scrum at Sydney's Airport Hilton, Farina looked most placid despite his tender years and the enormity of his national assignment.

Interview after interview, Farina remained unperturbed and not the slightest overwhelmed by his installation as Australia's latest World Cup coach.

Farina was excitedly heralded by Soccer officials as being this nation's first Australian-born coach, despite the fact that the great Joe Marston was very briefly in charge back in 1966 for games against the touring Italian giants, A.S. Roma.

"I've tasted three times the disappointment of not qualifying for the World Cup Finals," said Farina.

"It's been a bitter pill to swallow.

"It's been my biggest disappointment to have never made it to the World Cup Finals, and mind you I have not been the only one to feel like that.

"Australia's 1974 side (Munich '74), set the standard which no other side, to date, has been able to match.

"I believe I'm enthusiastic, passionate, hungry if you like, and have the drive and desire to win. I'm confident and ready to do the job."

*Continued page 2*

**FRANK FARINA PICTURE SPECIAL P16-17**



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# FRANK'S CUP GOAL

Continued from page 1

In fact Farina was not the first to know he had been selected as the successful candidate to the national position.

Last night he told ABSW, "You know it was my wife Julie who knew that I had gotten the job before me."

"Soccer Australia's Chairman, Basil Scarcella rang my home but I was out and he broke the news to Julie who burst out crying with joy. So I was not the first to know the good news."

When questioned about the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Farina quickly and very clearly came back with: "The Olympics in Sydney will be very important and from the squad that represents Australia in Soccer, a large

group of these players I would expect will form a significant portion of my 2002 World Cup squad."

With reference to his potential assistant, which Soccer Australia made clear it would be of Farina's sole choice and to be named at a much later date, Farina answered: "My assistants will all come from Australian backroom boys."

"The Angie Postecoglous, Eddie Krncevics, David Mitchells, will all have some involvement. You can never get too much information as the job will be very difficult."

"You can only qualify for the World Cup Finals if you pick the very best players to do the job."

Following his graduation from Canberra's Australian Institute of Sport in the early 1980s, Farina together with



Frank Farina: Australia's new boss.

his mate and excellent goalkeeper Anthony Franken, burst into the National Soccer League with the side then called the Canberra Arrows.

The flank flier burst onto the international arena for Australia in 1983 in sensational style.

It was during the Mexico World Youth Championships where Farina scored a cracking goal in front of a massive crowd of 110,000.

But this goal was to be nowhere near as spectacular as the one Farina scored five years later against New Zealand in the dying seconds of the match via a long-ranged pass by Australia's lateral defender Charlie Yankos.

That pressure goal ultimately booted Australia into the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

From the Canberra Arrows, the budding Farina was very quickly snapped up by Eddie Thomson who at the time was coaching the side which

seemed the forever champions, Sydney City.

Just when Sydney City was about to fold at the end of the 1986 season, Farina was transferred across town to Marconi.

After almost two seasons with Marconi, the golden boy from Darwin was sold for an Australian record transfer fee to Club Brugge in Belgium.

Farina later played a season in Italy with newly-promoted to the Serie A, Bari who at the very same time had recruited the England goalscoring midfielder David Platt.

Soccer Australia last week extended a three-year contract to Farina which will take him, and hopefully Australia, through to 2002, the year of the next World Cup finals staged jointly in Japan and South Korea.

- By John Economos

## FRANK'S RECORDS

| Season     | Club              | Country   | Appearances | Goals      |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 1983       | Canberra Arrows   | Australia | 19          | 7          |
| 1984       | Canberra Arrows   | Australia | 22          | 8          |
| 1985       | Sydney City       | Australia | 21          | 12         |
| 1986       | Sydney City       | Australia | 22          | 9          |
| 1987       | Marconi           | Australia | 23          | 16         |
| 1988       | Marconi           | Australia | 24          | 17         |
| 1988-89    | Club Brugge       | Belgium   | 15          | 8          |
| 1989-90    | Club Brugge       | Belgium   | 33          | 24         |
| 1990-91    | Club Brugge       | Belgium   | 26          | 12         |
| 1991-92    | Bari              | Italy     | 8           | 0          |
| 1991-92    | Notts County      | England   | 5           | 0          |
| 1992-93    | Strasbourg        | France    | 26          | 7          |
| 1993-94    | Strasbourg        | France    | 23          | 6          |
| 1994-95    | Lille             | France    | 20          | 8          |
| 1995-96    | Brisbane Strikers | Australia | 30          | 20         |
| *1996-97   | Brisbane Strikers | Australia | 25          | 12         |
| *1997-98   | Brisbane Strikers | Australia | 18          | 1          |
| *1998-1999 | Marconi-Fairfield | Australia | 2           | 0          |
|            | <b>Total</b>      |           | <b>362</b>  | <b>167</b> |

\* Denotes player-coach

## NATIONAL COACHES

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1964-65   | Jim Kelly        |
| 1965      | Tiko Jellsavcic  |
| 1966      | Joe Marston      |
| 1967      | Joe Venglos      |
| 1967-70   | Joe Vlasits      |
| 1970-74   | Rale Rasic       |
| 1975      | Eric Worthington |
| 1975      | Tony Boggi       |
| 1975-76   | Brian Green      |
| 1976-78   | Jim Shoulder     |
| 1978-81   | Rudi Gutendorf   |
| 1981-83   | Les Scheinflug   |
| 1984-90   | Frank Arok       |
| 1990-96   | Eddie Thomson    |
| 1996      | Raul Blanco      |
| 1997-98   | Terry Venables   |
| 1998-1999 | Raul Blanco      |
| 1999-     | Frank Farina     |

## VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

# GREEN AT LAST

By Kevin Christopher

The forecast had been for showers but it was a shower of champagne that was the order of the day at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday afternoon as the Cavaliers clinched their first state championship in sixteen years with a comprehensive 5-1 defeat of St Albans Saints.

It has been a long time coming for the Cavaliers, who have finished in the top half of the table in twelve of the thirteen years since being relegated from the NSL at the end of 1986.

Prior to their three year NSL stint, the club had three-peated the State championship, but despite their consistency since returning to state league level they have never managed to nail the big one.

The closest they came was in 1987, when they finished three points behind

Maribyrnong Polonia, but despite the restructuring of the league in 1992, and the introduction of a finals series, the Cavs have always managed to come up short at the business end of the season.

This year was different though, and Ian Dobson must be congratulated for building a championship team from a team of champions.

The squad is littered with star names, including dual NSL championship winner Zoran Markovski, 1995 Gold Medal winner George Svigos and 1993 Gold Medal winner Steve Douglas.

The midfield was particularly strong during the year, with Zdravko Atanasovski, Nick Papadopoulos, Brandon Vassallo and George Georgiadis all playing vital roles, while the strikers all found form at various stages, with Tony Necesi, Daniel Genovesi and Zlatko Donev all contributing at regular intervals.

Appropriately, five different players hit the target in the final match against St Albans to complete a season in which the goals were spread around amongst the highly talented squad.

And it was also fitting that veteran striker Tony Necesi, who led the celebrations in

the Green Gully Social Club afterwards, was the player to score the final goal in a season which saw him finish top scorer.

The match was a glorious finale to a season which began innocuously enough way back on February 1 with a 1-1 home draw to Melbourne Raiders, but that result was followed up with five successive wins to push the Cavaliers into second place.

For the next two months however, Green



Steve Douglas

Gully struggled to put further wins on the board as Port Melbourne stretched their lead to seven points.

The turning point came with a 6-1 win at Bentleigh, which triggered a run of six straight wins to propel Green Gully to the top of the table.

As Port Melbourne and Preston continued to drop points, the Cavaliers finished the season with just two losses and a 16 match unbeaten streak — the sign of a worthy champion.

Green Gully's hopes of completing a double were stymied in the Under 21's by the visiting Saints who snatched the championship themselves with a dramatic 3-3 draw.

After trailing 1-2, with 15 minutes remaining, the Saints scored twice in quick succession before conceding a last equaliser. But a draw was enough for the young Saints to clinch the inaugural Under 21 title.

## Regular Features

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# DARBY'S ASIAN PROMOTION

## Aussie coach joins Confederation staff

By John Economos

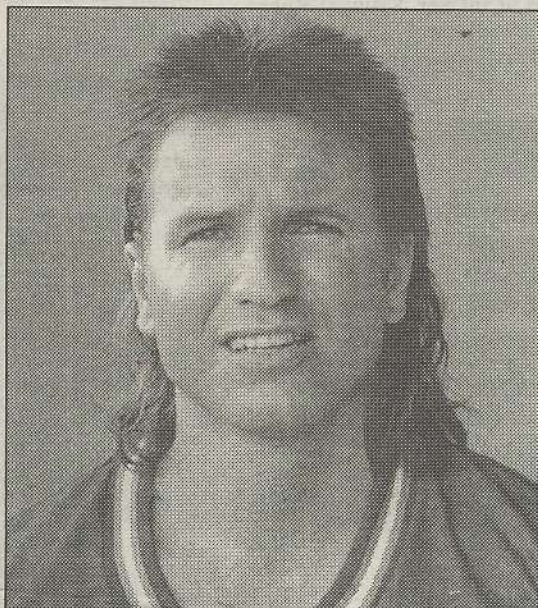
**S**teve Darby, the former youth development officer of Soccer Australia who later became Sydney Olympic's general manager, has for the past 12 months been based in Malaysia where he has made an immediate impact on the coaching scene with the Asians.

In recognition for his outstanding work in Malaysia over the past year or so, Darby has just been bestowed the honour of being appointed Staff Coach to the Asian

F.C.), Darby produced some unbelievable results that gained him unprecedented success.

Not only did he win the League championship for Johor F.A. — who prior to his arrival were languishing near the bottom of Division 2 — by reeling off eight consecutive wins, but he topped it all off by steaming ahead to heroically pull off an amazing shock win in the Malaysian Cup Final.

Darby's 2nd division lads did a 'David and Goliath' job when Johor F.A. stunningly defeated 1st division heavyweights Sabah 0-1 to take the Cup final.



**Darren Stewart: Tipped to win Singapore's player of the year award.**

won us the Cup Final. I just couldn't have done it without these two super star Aussies," stressed Darby.

Johor F.A. this season has automatically been promoted to the first division.

When contacted last night, Darby brought ABSW up to date with what is happening with all the remaining Australians still left behind in Malaysia.

"As you probably know by now, former Brisbane Strikers coach Bruce Stowell has replaced former AIS head coach Ronnie Smith as coach at Johor F.C. 'Smithy' was promoted to the position of Technical Director Of Coaching of Malaysia (see 'Good Oil' for more, page 4).

"All foreign players

out of contract had to leave the country when the Asian financial crisis hit hard here last year. Only a very few contracted players were allowed to remain behind.

"One such player was Brian Bothwell who plays for Brunei. He happened to marry a Muslim girl but had to convert his name to Mohammed Brian Abdullah Bothwell.

"The only high-profile player left in the country now is David Rocastle from England.

"In the Singapore League which has become full-time professional, Alan Vest is coaching Geyling after spending eight years in the Malaysian National League with Sarawak where he won the League championship almost three years ago.

"Former Socceroos

Ernie Tapai and Vlado Bozinovski are both playing for Home United, a team that leads the S-League whilst former Newcastle Breakers defender Darren Stewart is also doing extremely well as skipper of Balistier and is now strongly tipped to win 'Singapore's Player Of The Year'," highlighted Darby.

Darby also went on to add: "Meanwhile Scott O'Donnell is still playing in Singapore but as you already know David Cervinski and Micky Jurilj have both returned to Australia to play for Wollongong Wolves and Sydney United respectively."



**Steve Darby: Now a Staff Coach of the Asian Football Confederation.**

Football Confederation. He'll be assisting with the national team of India.

Since arriving in Malaysia last year to takeover the coaching reins of the struggling State side Johor FA, (not to be confused with Johor

Last night Darby reminisced to ABSW, stating: "I had Darren Stewart as my driving-force captain and Milan Blagojevic operating our attacks from midfield. It was Blagojevic that hit a 30 metre screamer that



**Ernie Tapai**



**Alan Vest**



**Ron Smith**



### Mt Pritchard Federation Soccer Club

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#### U18s Coach

#### YOUTH LEAGUE

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#### CADET LEAGUE

Under 11s and Under 12s

#### GOALKEEPER COACH

U11s to 1st Grade

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# GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL

**A**ndy Harper, seems to be very much in demand by NSW clubs in the Ericsson National League ever since his arrival back in Sydney from Queensland last week.

The former Sydney City, St George, Marconi and for the past two years Brisbane Strikers' goalscorer, joined Sydney Olympic last week for a couple of training sessions.



**Andy Harper: In demand by NSW clubs.**

But 'Good Oil' believes that the Newcastle Breakers have also a more than a casual interest in the most intelligent and burly striker, as does Sydney United.

□♦♦♦

Sydney United last Thursday night flew out of Sydney bound for China to play three matches in the "7th Shanghai International Football Cup Tournament".

Tonight (Tuesday), United plays a team from Uruguay, and on Saturday they play their second match against a Japanese side.

United's last match is next Tuesday (24th August) against the host side Shanghai.

The matches are expected to attract crowds of 40,000 to each game, whilst a viewing audience of over 200 million is anticipated throughout Asia.



**Velimir Kupresak: United's sterling skipper and stopper.**

Last season's magnificent captain and veteran centreback Velimir Kupresak will lead the United side into battle.

Last season's Grand Finalists return to Sydney next Wednesday night.

United's first match in Sydney is on Sunday 29th August when they face Wollongong City at 3pm in the 'David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Soccer Cup at Edensor Park.

Striker Nathan Day travelled with United's 18-man squad to China last Thursday.

□♦♦♦

**R**onnie Smith, as reported in ABSW earlier this year, has been elevated to the prestigious position of Technical Director Of Coaching of Malaysia.

The former AIS gun Head Coach who left Canberra three years ago to takeover Sabah in the Malaysian National League, was an instant hit with the Malaysians.

In his very first season there Smith piloted Sabah to win the League Championship and came narrowly close to scoring the Cup double as well.

Recently he left Johor F.C. to move to Kuala Lumpur for his new role with F.A.M. but now has also been bestowed with the position of National coach of Malaysia's Under 23s.

At Canberra's A.I.S. the highly knowledgeable Smith had pumped out numerous quality players as Mark Viduka, Alistair Edwards, Paul Okon etc.



**Ronnie Smith: Highly respected coach in Malaysia.**

□♦♦♦

**S**BS-TV's new fabulous highlight coverage package of the new England Premier League season every Monday night, has had an immediate and sensational response by viewers throughout Australia.

At the most excellent and extremely considerate 7.30pm time slot, SBS yet again has proven that it is indeed the only Television network in Australia that knows how to handle and service the Australian Soccer fan.

This is a magnificent programme of the world's most popular Soccer League.

It is the only free-to-air comprehensive highlight series in prime time every week.

The magnificent commentary by world famous Martin Tyler, strongly supported by another World Cup 'gun voice', that of Paul Dempsey, makes this programme ever so much more enjoyable for the consumer.

Thanks to SBS we can now monitor every week the careers of our young fulltime professional Aussie stars in England's Premier League.

Australians of the high calibre as Coventry City's elegant marksman John Aloisi, Manchester United's world class custodian Mark Bosnich, Middlesbrough's powerful goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, newly promoted Watford's tenacious midfielder Richard Johnson, and Leeds United's front runner Harry Kewell.

SBS's weekly Monday English League programme will be repeated each Saturday afternoon at 5.30pm.

□♦♦♦

*By John Economos*

**D**avid Mitchell's Parramatta Power late last week secured the services of former National Rugby League administrator Brad Levy to act as the Power's General manager of Soccer.



Mr Levy was employed in Rugby League as the assistant to the high profiled C.E.O. Neil Whittaker who also resigned from the N.R.L. last week.

Officials from Soccer's newest team stated: "Our goal is to not only have the best on-field team, but also the best off-field administration team."

Mr Levy kicks off his duties in Soccer on a fulltime basis early next month.

□♦♦♦

**J**ohn Crawley, Macarthur Rams' giant goalkeeper and recent winner of the NSW Soccer Federation's 'Goalkeeper Of The Year' award, is expected to soon make a decision on which club he will sign for in the Ericsson National League.

The highly experienced and well built Crawley has played five years with Colo Colo in the Chilean first division.

The two clubs leading the chase for Crawley at this stage are Sydney United and Sydney Olympic.

Olympic is now stranded with the unexpected retirement of their regular custodian George Bouhoutsos, but still have the very valuable Jimmy Kourtis.

Meanwhile Crawley travelled to China last Thursday with United's squad.

**MACARTHUR**



**RAMS**

□♦♦♦

**C**laudio Canosa, the towering and former player-assistant coach with the Gippsland Falcons has been released by his club after eight straight years of service.

Still powerfully fit, Canosa urgently is seeking a new club after the giant competitive Canosa who has played with Racing of Argentina and has had a full season in Bolivia, still wants to play. Possessing his Level 3 Coaching papers, Canosa may be contacted on 0412 348 267 in Melbourne.



□♦♦♦

**A**nte Covic, Marconi's slender-built goalkeeper, as predicted by 'Good Oil' in a previous edition, eventually signed for Greek first division side Paok of Salonika for \$280,000.

The former Leichhardt Tigers' custodian was signed, sealed and finally delivered last Thursday night (a.e.s.t.).

But initial negotiations between the two clubs were not all that silky smooth. The deal was finally clinched on

Thursday night only after Marconi's Soccer administrator Frank Labbozzetta was able to force Paok's at first reluctant management, to make a significant amendment in the wording of the contract of terms between the Australian and Greek clubs.

The glaring objection of terms spotted by Marconi was in reference to any pending ongoing sale of Covic made by Paok.

Marconi is now left with only one experienced NSL 'wicket keeper', that being Brett Hughes who was signed towards the end of last season.



**Ante Covic: Signed by Greek first division side Paok.**

□♦♦♦

**A**delaide City's tough boss Zoran Matic, recently returned to South Australia after zipping to Europe for a couple of weeks of a well earned rest with his gorgeous wife Mira.

The Matics flew to the Greek islands (Rhodes in fact), then briefly stopped over in Rome for a 'short black' before calling into Yugoslavia.

A draughtsman and builder by trade, Matic upon his return to Australia soon found that he had much



**Zoric Matic: Must rebuild urgently.**

rebuilding to do to his NSL squad which during the off-season had been so decimated with departures.

The 'Black and Whites' have to date lost midfielders Dino Mennillo

(Auckland Kings) and David Terminello (Carlton), Travis Dodd (Newcastle), Brad Hassell (in England on trials), and defender Bradley Armour (Adelaide Sharks).

International goalkeeper Jason Petkovic is right now in London following trials in Belgium. Riding 'shot-gun' with Petkovic is none other than former Adelaide City great, Gary Marrochi.

To date Matic has made only two signings, those of Adelaide's 'favourite son' Aurelio Vidmar, and the towering defender from Canberra Cosmos, Ivan Zelic.

□♦♦♦

**T**he Northern Spirit last week officially announced that their first publication embracing the Spirit's inaugural season in the NSL, will be readily available late September for Spirit fans.

The book consists of 88 full colour A 4 pages including numerous unpublished photos and interviews.

As well, the book incorporates every match report (home and away), every team line up, every goal, every yellow and red card, all attendance, final tables, player profiles, sponsors' Football Tournament, Open Day, Australia Day Challenge (team photos), Coaches comments after every match, Supporters' pictures, and something for everyone to enjoy for many years to come.

Cost is just \$10 plus \$2.50 postage and handling, and will be on sale at the Spirits' home ground or club offices.

Pre bookings for copies can be made by contacting Micky Brock at Northern Spirit F.C. 15 Ridge Street, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW. 2060 or by phone on (02) 9460-2187 or Fax (02) 9460-2183.

□♦♦♦

**S**ydney United — who for the third consecutive season has had a mass exodus of players — moved quickly to plug up alarming gaps to their squad for the coming new season starting October 1st.

The latest list of signings made by new coach David Ratcliffe to date, are: Eddy Bosnar (Spirit), Tommy Pondeljak (Melbourne Knights), Mirko Jurilj (Johor), Nahuel Arrarte (NSW



# GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL ...

Institute), Aytec Genc (Johor), Kain Rastell (Macarthur Rams), Vince Savoca (Leichhardt Tigers).



David Ratcliffe: United's new boss.

Port Kembla Soccer Club, the high profile side in the Illawarra Soccer League, and coached by former World Cup striker Adrian Alston, could soon be upgraded into the NSW Super League.

Manly coached by former international goalkeeper Tony Pezzano, also will be promoted into next season's NSW Super League.

Frank Farina, Marconi's newly appointed Australian coach has arranged a friendly match against Sydney Olympic to be played at Marconi stadium tomorrow night (Wednesday) to start at 7pm.

There is no admission fee for those who are willing to attend.

Tickets are now on sale for the dinner of 'CLUB 74', to be held next Tuesday August 24th. The theme being 'A Testimony to Jimmy Mackay' who passed away December 11th last year.

This nostalgic dinner will be staged at 'Vinnies' Ristorante, in the outer western suburb of Sydney, Casula.

Information and bookings for tickets for this dinner can be made by contacting former Australian coach Rale Rasic at 'R.R. Football International' on 02-98261-308, or 0416-288-627.



Rale Rasic

Brad Maloney, Marconi's high scoring midfielder and skipper, returned from Europe late last week looking very relaxed and fresh.

'Good Oil' recently reported that Maloney had been spotted in Rome, but was then seen heading for Spain.

In fact Maloney had gone to Sweden (Malmo in fact) for a fitness training course.

'Bugsy' then flew to Rome for some sightseeing and a macchiato, before flying out to southern Spain to laze on the sunny beaches to recharge his depleted batteries.



Brad Maloney

Wollongong Wolves has signed up new supplier Umbro, and in so doing hope it will bring them some 'treble' doses of luck.

Umbro has been secured on a two year contract.

The Wolves this season will be kitted out in the identical playing strip as that of the mighty Manchester United.



David Beckham: Not part of deal with Wollongong Wolves.

The strip replicates United's world famous strip — (red top and black shorts) — with two away interchangeable strips (White shirt and both the white or the black shorts).

Wolves' skipper Matt Horsely stated: "It's been a real boost to the team's morale". However the deal doesn't include David Beckham on the right with the racey Ryan Giggs on the left. caption.

Lee Sterrey, Newcastle Breakers' success hungry coach, although initially re-signed to a one year contract by wealthy Breakers' recent benefactor David Hall, has already been offered extended terms.

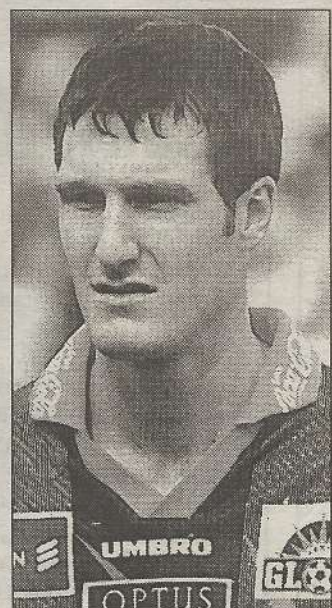
Sterrey stated to 'Good Oil' last night: "Of course I'm flattered and very pleased.

"We will wait and see as I've still got a lot of work to do yet."

By John Economos

Danny Hay, Perth Glory's most decorated player, was last week cleared to play for England Premier League side Leeds United.

Voted as the Glory's 'Most Glorious Player' in the 1997-98 season and joint winner last season of the same award with Scott



Danny Hay: Glory's defender heading for Leeds United.

Miller, Hay flies out today (17th August) from Perth to start his new career at Elland Road.

Neil Harlock, Wollongong City's New Zealand international, has re-signed with the Wolves again for the coming season.

Unfortunately the talented Harlock broke his ankle that forced him to miss all of last season.

He took a year off and returned to New Zealand, but now is back for Wollongong's pre-season training and already is showing strong fitness.



Alvin Ceccoli: Back from a stint in Greece.

Besides Harlock's return, Wollongong's squad has greatly been stiffened by the signings of former Carlton central defender

David Cervinski plus Alvin Ceccoli who is back from a stint in Greece.

Newcastle Breakers' clash on the week-end with the Northern Spirit in the 'David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Soccer Cup' which had originally been set down to be played this Sunday (22nd August), has now been brought forward by 24 hours.

This match has been rescheduled for this Saturday (21st August), with kick off at 6pm.



The Youth match between the Breakers and Central Coast starts at 3.30pm with gates opened at 3pm.

Michael Brooks, Wollongong City's attacking midfielder, last week parted company with the Wolves to return to his hometown Adelaide.



Michael Brooks (right) pictured with Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Wollongong officials stated that Brooks would not be required to fulfil his second season of his two year contract.

Wolves' General manager Graeme Haney stated: "Michael has acted professionally and realistically, and his decision was respected by our Club.

"We were disappointed that Michael's time with the Club had not been more productive and wish him every success for the future."

JOIN THE SUPER CLUB OF THE 90'



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Applications are invited for the following positions:

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\*\*\*COACH\*\*\*

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# ERICSSON CUP TRANSFERS

ALL THE OFF-SEASON MOVES SO FAR *Please note that this list is not complete*

## ADELAIDE CITY



### Gains

Aurelio Vidmar Sanfreece  
Hiroshma, (Jap)  
Ivan Zelic C'berra Cosmos  
Corey Artone Southern Stars  
Danny Vidakovic Southern Stars

### Losses

David Terminello Carlton  
Travis Dodd Newcastle Breakers  
Dino Mennillo Kings FC  
Bradley Armour Southern Stars

## MELBOURNE



### Gains

N/A

### Losses

Tom Pondeljak  
Sydney United

## GIPPSLAND



### Gains

N/A

### Losses

NA

## CARLTON



### Gains

Craig Deans  
David Terminello  
Dave McPherson  
John Markovski  
Angelo Mtsiopoulos  
Mike Conroy  
Andrew Packer  
Steve Martin

Perth Glory  
Adelaide City  
Hearts (Sco)  
Perth Glory  
VIS  
Blackpool, (Eng)  
Brisbane Strikers  
Carlton juniors

### Losses

David Cervinski  
Marcus Stergiopoulos  
Marco Bresciano

Wollongong Wolves  
Auckland Kings  
Empoli (Ita)

## BRISBANE STRIKERS



### Gains

N/A

### Losses

Kasey Wehrman Perth Glory  
Steve Laybutt Parramatta Power  
Andrew Packer Carlton  
Chris Zoricich released  
Craig Williams released  
Andrew Harper released  
Reece Tollenare released  
Glenn Kolpak released

## CANBERRA COSMOS



### Gains

Alex Castro Southern Stars  
Gordon Hunter Hibernian (Sco)

### Losses

Peter Buljan Perth Glory  
Ivan Zelic Adelaide City  
Lindsay Wilson Sydney Olympic  
Anthony Magnacca South Melbourne  
Norman Kelly Released  
Amiraldo Miglietti Released  
Doug Marcina Released  
Leo Langone Released  
Paul Roberts Released  
Dale Wingell Released

## SYDNEY UNITED



### Gains

Eddy Bosnar Nthn Spirit  
Tom Pondeljak Melbourne Knights  
Peter Ritchie Newcastle Breakers  
Mirko Jurilj Jurong (Sing)

### Losses

Jacob Burns Parramatta Power  
Mile Sterjovski Parramatta Power  
Joel Griffiths Parramatta Power  
Danny Townsend Parramatta Power  
Joe Vrkic Parramatta Power  
Richard Plesa Parramatta Power  
Steve Eagleton Parramatta Power  
Michael Santalab Parramatta Power  
Steve Berry Parramatta Power  
David Barrett Parramatta Power  
Barney Smith Parramatta Power  
Walter Ardone Parramatta Power  
Mike Gibson Parramatta Power

## PARRAMATTA POWER

### Gains

Milan Blagojevic Sydney Olympic  
John Gibson Southern Stars  
John Angelucci Blacktown (NSW)  
Jacob Burns Sydney United  
Mile Sterjovski Sydney United  
Joel Griffiths Sydney United  
Danny Townsend Sydney United  
Joe Vrkic Sydney United  
Richard Plesa Sydney United  
Steve Eagleton Sydney United  
Michael Santalab Sydney United  
Steve Berry Sydney United  
David Barrett Sydney United  
Barney Smith Sydney United  
Walter Ardone Sydney United  
Mike Gibson Sydney United

### Losses

N/A

## PERTH GLORY



### Gains

Peter Buljan Canberra Cosmos  
Ivan Ergic AIS  
Kasey Wehrman Brisbane Strikers  
Dion Valle Macarthur (NSW)

### Losses

Craig Deans Carlton  
Gavin Wilkinson Kings FC  
Paul Strudwick Retired  
John Markovski Carlton  
Vasco Trpcevisi N'castle Breakers  
Michael Garcia Released  
Gianfranco Circati Released  
Danny Hay Leeds Utd (Eng)

## SOUTH MELB.



### Gains

Anthony Magnacca Canberra Cosmos  
Richard Alagich Adelaide Sharks

### Losses

Jason Polak released

## SOUTHERN STARS



### Gains

Peter Blazincic Northern Spirit  
Bradley Armour Adelaide City

### Losses

John Gibson Parramatta Power  
Corey Artone Adelaide City  
Alex Castro Canberra Cosmos  
Danny Vidakovic Adelaide City

## W'GONG WOLVES



### Gains

Neil Harlock New Zealand  
David Cervinski Carlton  
Alvin Ceccoli AEK Athens (Gre)

### Losses

Sebastian Sinozic released  
Raymond Younis released  
Michael Brooks released  
Damon Langan Blacktown (NSW)  
Steve Karavataks Leichhardt (NSW)

## NORTHERN SPIRIT



### Gains

David Seal Northampton, (Eng)  
Jess Van Stratten NSW Institute of Sport  
Simon Catanzaro NSW Institute of Sport  
Jack Sobczyk Northern Spirit juniors  
Ryan Griffiths Northern Spirit juniors  
Tony Faria Northern Spirit juniors  
Adam Griffiths Northern Spirit juniors  
Adam Snyder Northern Spirit juniors

### Losses

Kresimir Marusic Lommel (Bel)  
Eddy Bosnar Sydney United  
Gabriel Mendez Sydney Olympic  
Peter Blazincic Southern Stars  
Paul Foster Released  
James Stubbs-Mills Released  
Adem Poric Released

## NEWCASTLE BREAKERS



### Gains

Travis Dodd Adelaide City  
Luke Tomich Marconi-Fairfield  
Vas Trpcevisi Perth Glory

### Losses

Peter Ritchie Sydney United  
Robert Shannon (Sco) released  
Sang Chul Yoon (Kor) released  
Fouad Umlil (Mor) released

## MARCONI FAIRFIELD



### Gains

N/A

### Losses

Luke Tomich N'castle Breakers  
Marcus Phillips Sydney Olympic  
Ante Covic Paok Salonika (Greece)

## SYDNEY OLYMPIC



### Gains

Zlatko Arambasic Mechlen (Bel)  
Marcus Phillips Marconi-Fairfield  
Lindsay Wilson C'berra Cosmos  
Gabriel Mendez Northern Spirit  
Paul Kohler S Olympic juniors  
Lee Miot S Olympic juniors  
John Kyriazopoulos S Olympic juniors  
John Karoubas S Olympic juniors

### Losses

Milan Blagojevic P'matta Power  
Leo Carle St George  
Carlos Gonzalez Ourense (Spa)  
Mehmet Durakovic Released  
Mark Brennan (Eng) Released  
Kimon Taliadoros Released  
George Sorras Released  
Norman Tome Released  
Ante Juric Released  
Elias Augerinos Released



# OCEANIA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

# \$1,150,000

## South Melbourne favourite to win cash

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne stands to pocket at least \$US750,000 (\$1,150,000) should they qualify for the lucrative FIFA World Club Championships to be played in Brazil in January.

That's what South can expect should they win the Oceania club championship in Fiji in mid-September, where they then can expect to face the likes of Manchester United and Real Madrid in Brazil.

The draw for the Oceania championship was made in New Zealand last week, keeping apart South from New Zealand's representatives in the competition.

That representative will come from Central United, Dunedin Technical, Nelson Suburbs, Waitakere City and Woolston.

South will have to beat Konica, from American Samoa, Tafea from Vanuatu and Tahitian champions, AS Venus.

Coach Ange Postecoglou confessed he knew absolutely nothing about the opposition his side will have to face.

"From what I can gather, they're fairly weak sides, but apart from that I wouldn't have a clue" he said.

With the amount of prizemoney on offer, Postecoglou is leaving nothing to chance.

"People are saying that we're a shoe-in (to win tournament), but these teams are playing their season now so they'll be a bit fitter."

"I'd hate to go over there and fall over because we were under-prepared."

Postecoglou will be making a journey to Fiji in the near future to run the rule over the grounds on which they'll be playing and where the team will be staying.

Another trip Postecoglou will take is to New Zealand for their Grand Final, which is likely to be played on September 5.

Whilst there, he also hopes to learn a little more from Oceania headquarters on the three teams South have to play in Fiji.

South would play four games in seven days should it reach the final, to be played on September 25.

Postecoglou said that the squad, likely to be 18-20 players, will arrive in Fiji two or three days before the tournament begins.



Ange Postecoglou: Leaving nothing to chance.



Fausto De Amicis: Experienced defender.



Nick Orlic: His height and aggression may cause the opposition problems.



Paul Trimboll: South's captain and most skilful player.



Michael Curcija: Hopes to be in goal-scoring form.



David Clarkson: Midfield work horse.



## SYDNEY UNITED NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

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Trials will be held on the following days:

**Sunday August 22**

at Fairfield Rd Park, Fairfield Rd, Fairfield  
9.30am — 11.30am

**Tuesday August 24**

at Fairfield Rd Park, Fairfield Rd, Fairfield  
6.30pm — 8.30pm

**Thursday August 26**

at Fairfield Rd Park, Fairfield Rd, Fairfield  
6.30pm — 8.30pm

All players must be born after January 1, 1981.

Bring playing gear and if you are registered with another club, a clearance form or permission to trial with Sydney United.

Details: **9823 6418**



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Applications close  
Friday 27th August, 1999

**PARRAMATTA CITY  
SOCCER CLUB**  
2000 NSW STATE LEAGUE

# COACHES WANTED

for  
CADET LEAGUE, YOUTH  
LEAGUE  
AND SENIOR TEAMS

Fax your application to  
Secretary,  
Greg Pipikios:  
(02) 9680 9551

## OCEANIA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

### September 18 - Group A

South Melbourne v Konica (American Samoa)  
AS Venus (Tahiti) v Tafea (Vanuatu)

### Group B

Nadi (Fiji) v Malaita Eagles (Solomon Islands)  
Kiwi (Samoa) v New Zealand representative

### September 20 - Group A

AS Venus v South Melbourne  
Konica v Tafea

### Group B

Nadi v Kiwi  
NZ rep. v Malaita Eagles

### September 22 - Group A

South Melbourne v Tafea  
Konica v AS Venus

### Group B

Nadi v NZ rep.  
Kiwi v Malaita Eagles

### September 25 - Final

Group A winner v Group B winner



# GREAT SCOT

## ITALIA '90 PLAYER TEAMS UP WITH AN OLD MATE TO HELP FLEDGLING CLUB

By Dwyght Tuffnell

**A**fter a glittering career in Scotland that saw him win championships and cups with both Rangers and Hearts, giant defender Dave McPherson is looking to repeat those feats in Australia with Carlton.

And, according to the former Scottish international, Carlton have what it takes to be challenging for honours when the new season begins in October.

McPherson has been the star signing for Carlton in the off-season as they look to recapture the form that took them to the Grand Final in their first season before last year's slide down the table after a steady start.

McPherson has been signed by Carlton for two years and he's already settled well in Melbourne after arriving a month ago.

McPherson will be joined by his family at the end of the month, just after he gets back from China with the rest of the Carlton squad.

"I've been quite impressed with the club" said McPherson on his short time with the Blues.

"Before I came here I did a bit of work into the club's background and found them to be to my liking.

"I know they've been around for only two years and made the Final in their first season and a disappointing second year but they're fairly ambitious and want to be up there again this season."

McPherson has 27 Scottish caps to his name and represented his country at both the 1990 World Cup in Italy and the 1992 European Championships in Sweden.

"Any time you represent your country is an honour but doing it in a World Cup is extra special" McPherson reflected.

Having a shortage of experience and defenders, Carlton coach Stuart Munro moved quickly when he knew of McPherson's availability.

McPherson though had two offers from Japanese clubs as well as being given the option of staying another season with Hearts.

"I was actually quite surprised when I got him" said Munro.

McPherson's decision to make the move to Australia certainly wasn't a spur of the moment thing.

He was a free agent under the Bosman Ruling and originally planned to accept the one-year deal with Hearts before the idea of coming to Australia became more and more appealing.

"At first I didn't fancy it, I thought it was too far away" he explained.

"But the more I thought about it, the more I liked the idea. The lifestyle is good here and Carlton is a very ambitious club.

"I've always been ambitious myself and coming to a club who want to be successful like Carlton was ideal, that's what you're in sport for, to be successful.

"That was the major factor in coming here, it's a great time to be here when the club is still in its infancy."

It was with Rangers in 1984 that Australia first saw McPherson. He, along with Munro, were a part of a Rangers tour of the country.



A long time ago: Rangers defender Dave McPherson is slide-tackled by Socceroo Jim Patikas during the Scottish club's 1984 Australian tour. Also playing were Carlton coach Stuart Munro and Parramatta Power coach Dave Mitchell.

"We all enjoyed that trip" said McPherson, "Melbourne has certainly changed since then and now I'm looking forward to seeing the rest of Australia."



Dave McPherson: Represented Scotland 27 times.

Munro knows all about McPherson, having played with him at Rangers.

"I knew what I was getting when I signed Dave. When I took the Carlton job, I felt he was the type of player that the club needed.

"He's a very important signing, his experience and organisational skills are going to be of a great benefit to us.

"In the practise games we've played so far he's looked comfortable and proved himself to be a real handful. He's going to be dangerous at set-pieces. Being 6ft4, he's very hard to defend against."

McPherson likes what he's seen of the Carlton side so far.

"We've got a strong squad. There's a lot of young players who can hopefully benefit from mine and a few of the other senior players experience in the coming season."

McPherson would hardly have envisaged that he'd be one day playing under Munro, his former team-mate at Rangers.

"Stuart and I go back a long way, I know all about him and his knowledge of the game is good," McPherson says. "I know he impressed a lot of people last season working with a small budget at Gippsland.

"This season, a few people are

expecting him to go further with Carlton."

Though now 35, Munro says that McPherson is "very, very fit. He's looked after himself well."

His fitness level is bound to be tested come the middle of the Ericsson Cup season in summer time, a vast difference from what he's used to, playing in the Scottish winter.

"I'm actually looking forward to it (playing in summer). The weather we've been having here in the last few days has just been like Scotland in the summer" said McPherson.

"People are walking around at the moment saying it's cold but I'm enjoying it.

"Playing in summer is a good idea, it doesn't take as long to warm up and I think it can actually extend your career an extra one

or two years.

"Playing in the Scottish winter in the snow and freezing gales has to be seen to be believed. I'm certainly not going to miss it."



### Carlton's new signing

**C**arlton has signed John Markovski from Perth Glory.

Markovski played in the Blues inaugural season, helping them to a spot in the Grand Final but left at the start of last season after a dispute over pay.

Markovski started training with the Blues last week.

"He's looking quite good at the moment" said coach Stuart Munro, "but obviously he needs a few games under his belt."

Markovski went with Carlton to China on Saturday, along with other new signing Mike Conroy.

Conroy, a striker, comes to Carlton from English Second Division club, Blackpool.



# VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

## MANY THANKS, ABSW



To John Economos  
May I pass on my appreciation and also that of the Board of Directors in the presentation that appeared in last week's Australian and British Soccer Weekly.

The centre spread was a fantastic publication of the Presentation Evening, and obviously you had a major input into the photographs and layout.

You have long been a supporter of the State competitions, and articles written about our leagues are very much appreciated.

Peter B Gray,  
President,  
NSW Soccer Federation



## Letters to the Editor

ABSW welcomes opinions on any issue regarding Australian or overseas soccer.

Send your letters by

Email: [soccerweekly@hotmail.com](mailto:soccerweekly@hotmail.com)

Fax: (02) 9550 9332

or Mail

PO Box 155

Marrickville NSW 2204

## SEVEN TO DUMP SOCCER — WE HOPE

Dear Sir,

The crisis engulfing the Seven TV network may bring unexpected relief to Australia's soccer fans. As part of serious cost cutting measures it is very likely Seven will review its involvement with Oz soccer.

Even taking into account their total commitment to AFL, Tennis and Rugby which leaves little time or space for soccer they have thus far got very little to show for their "Claytons" involvement with Oz soccer.

Worse still their financial position means they will not be able to make a serious bid for the Oz TV rights for the 2002 and 2006 World Cup finals.

Assuming they miss out then Seven's dubious involvement with Oz soccer both in the short and long

term becomes even more marginal.

As the current powerbrokers at SA are unhappy about the ten year deal done with Seven by David Hill then the prospects for negotiating the contract on "mutually beneficial terms" must be high.



If this scenario comes to pass few if any Oz soccer fans will be sorry to see Seven discard soccer.

An ABSW article on the trials and tribulations of the American League comes as no surprise. FIFA has over the last 20 years poured an enormous amount of resources into

trying to popularise soccer in USA with little to show.

On the other hand FIFA has deployed only a tiny amount of resources by comparison on Womens soccer in the US. Yet the womens game in the US over a very short time span has achieved more than the men's game has achieved in more than a hundred years.

Women's soccer in the US has become a significant mainstream sport (at least amongst females) purely by its own efforts without the inpetus of big money, hype and self styled experts.

Interesting and worth thinking about.

R. Melor,  
Bondi, NSW.

## • UNDER 17 WORLD CUP •

# JOB NOT OVER

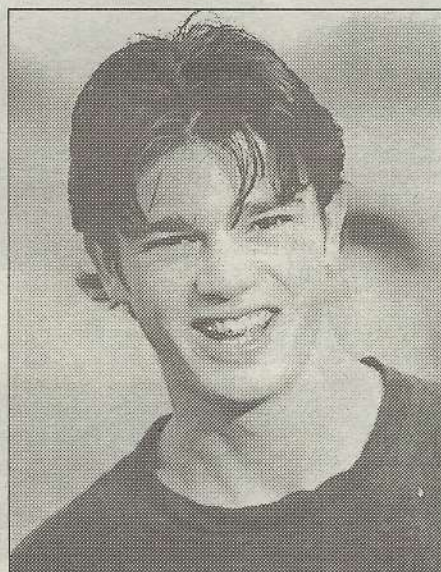
## Joeys win first leg but concede crucial away goal

By Graham Cooke

The Australian Joeys will carry a one-goal lead to the island state of Bahrain later this month — a margin which coach Les Schienflug admits is too narrow for comfort.

"We still have a lot of work to do," he said after his team had beaten its opponent 2-1 in the Under-17 World Championship qualifier on a bleak Saturday night at Canberra's Bruce Stadium.

It was a shame Australia could not have completed more of that work on home territory. They had ample opportunities for at least one more goal, and showed enough dominance, especially at either end of the game, to have manufactured a two or even three-goal cushion.



Joseph Di Iorio: Scored Australia's first goal.

But on this night the killer instinct was in short supply. The Joeys looked confident, even elegant at times when they moved the ball around, but it was Bahrain that showed the desperation, often in front of their own goal, which makes things happen.

It happened for them in their darkest period of the game. With 27 minutes gone they were lucky to be trailing by just 1-0, while Australian goalkeeper Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan was the most under-worked player on the field.

Captain Adel Al-Noaimi was bundled over by Joseph Di Iorio; Sultan Mahboob took the free kick and Husain Salman, turning quickly in the penalty box, tucked his shot under the diving Kedwell-Vanstrattan into the net.

The Joeys' had begun the scoring with a 15th-minute penalty. Di Iorio, who plays in the youth team of German first division club Bremen, had already caused the visiting defence some strife

when he was up-ended by Sari Faraj.

His penalty kick was unorthodox — a little shuffle up to the ball and a side-foot close to the base of the upright — but effective.

After Al Noaimi's equalising strike, Australia badly needed a reply before half time, and it came, also as the result of a free kick.

This time Lucas Pantelis placed the ball with delicate precision on to the head of Wayne Srhoj whose effort was well parried by goalkeeper Hussin Sanad, but only to the feet of Mark Byrnes who performed the routine task of returning the ball into an open net.

At half time Schienflug demanded 45 minutes of attacking flair from his team — sadly he got about half that, and only after some shuffling had brought first Dylan Macallister and then Joshua Kennedy into the game.

Kennedy especially brought some height with him, and proved a better partner for Di Iorio than the busy but often ineffective Scott MacDonald.

Schienflug said that if fault is to be found it was in the midfield, but remained determinedly optimistic about the return leg. "These are very young players — hot one day cold the next — I hope they will prove to be hot in a hot country."

And that is the crux of the matter: Bahrain have come through what coach Mubarak Juhar described as the cruel combination of cold and altitude in Canberra, battered but unbowed. A 1-0 home win will see them into the finals in New Zealand later in the year.

Can the Joeys defend their precarious advantage in the Persian Gulf on August 27 where conditions at this time of the year are going to be both hot and humid? Schienflug was in a challenging mood.

"I am sure they are looking forward to catching us in the heat, but we do not go there with our tails between our legs. They will have to come at us."

So the opportunity remains for boys to become men, and for a new generation of Australian soccer heroes to take shape under the desert stars. The code in this country is in urgent need of them.

**Australia:** Kedwell-Vanstrattan, Lockhart, Cansdell-Sheriff, Goulding, Byrnes, North, Di Iorio, Pantelis (Kennedy 82), McDonald (Macallister 62), Johnson (Brain 38), Srhoj.

**Bahrain:** Sanad, Faraj, Mahboob (Isa 90), Ali, Al-Noaimi, Yusuf, Salman (Bahram 71), Saad, Hassan (Hubail 46), Razak, Abbas.

Referee: Lubos Michel (Slovakia).

### Goalscorers

Australia: Di Iorio 16, Byrnes 37.

Bahrain: Salman 27.

### Yellow cards

Australia: Srhoj 26, Cansdell-Sheriff 49.

Bahrain: Salman 43, Hubail 48.

Attendance: 1000 (estimated).



Wayne Srhoj: Inadvertently set up Australia's second goal.

## Camden Tigers Soccer Club



## Coaches Required

State League Division 3

First Grade Coach Level 3 Preferred

Youth League

Under 13 ♦ Under 14 ♦ Under 15 ♦ Under 16

Minimum Intermediate Licence Preferred

(Old Level 2)

Applications close September 3, 1999

Send written applications to

**Secretary**

Camden Tigers Soccer Club

PO Box 165

Camden 2570

FOR MORE INFORMATION RING  
MICHAEL SPAIN ON 0416 119 568



# Australian Features



This week we sit back, relax and share a Soft Sombrero moment with our second Diegos guest of the week — a young man whose bullet like rise through the ranks of the Young Socceroos, the Olyroo, the senior Socceroos and potentially, European football has been crudely stalled by a wayward tackle in the recent two match series against Manchester United.



**Diegos:** "In years to come, your recollections of the 1999 treble winning Manchester United tour of Australia will no doubt bring bitter sweet memories."

"Excellent performances by yourself at the MCG and Stadium Australia against the likes of Ryan Giggs and Jesper Blomquist brought rave reviews and then came 'that tackle' that seemingly has put your career on hold for an indefinite period."

"Can you tell us what was going through your mind once you hit the ground clutching your knee?"

**Colosimo:** "Where the hell is that doctor? There was just a lot of pain and I wanted the doctor on as soon as possible to get a look at it. I sort of knew as soon as I got tackled that my knee had gone."

"How bad it was I didn't know, that's why I wanted a medical opinion immediately."

**Diegos:** "Since the incident, the Andy Cole tackle has been described variously as horrific, horrendous and unlawful. An immediate apology wasn't forthcoming but apparently you did receive a basket of fruit and flowers from the Manchester club."

"How is the fruit and flower compost heap going in the backyard and were you surprised at the lack of regard such a prestigious club and



Simon Colosimo: Hopes to be back within six months.

one of its high profile players had for your welfare after the incident?"

**Colosimo:** "I wasn't really surprised but if the situation were reversed, I would've probably gone up and apologised. At the end of the day, I really didn't expect anything from him."

**Diegos:** "There has been a lot of talk of legal action by your club, Carlton against a range of parties including Cole."

What are the overseas club opportunities you've missed out on because of the injury and do you think that the issue will go all the way to court?"

**Colosimo:** "On the issue of suing Manchester United, Andy Cole, Rivkin or Soccer Australia, I don't know where that's going."

"That is up to my club Carlton. They have hired a law firm and are pursuing the case and exploring their rights. I'm just more worried about my knee getting better. As far as overseas opportunities go, there was a couple of good offers from Italy, Spain and around Europe but they are just going to have to wait."

**Diegos:** "The diagnosis was tears to the anterior cruciate and medial ligaments of the knee."

"Was the surgery a success and how is your rehabilitation going? Have you set any goals for your ultimate return to playing?"

**Colosimo:** "I actually got my anterior cruciate replaced with a piece of my hamstring tendon. The medial ligament was completely torn so they had to repair that. My cartilage was also damaged so they cleaned that up too."

"The surgery went really well and I'm feeling a million dollars at the moment. My doctor, Dr Young did a really good job. I'm moving around and I can put weight on it."

"I've got good movement in my knee so given that it's only been three weeks since the operation, things are looking good. I haven't specified any particular round next season as my comeback game but I'm looking at the six-month mark. I've decided to take a week by week approach."

**Diegos:** "Will you try and seek out high profile athletes from other sports who have had to undergo similar rehabilitations?"

**Colosimo:** "As soon as I can hop into a car and drive I'll try to visit Western Bulldogs AFL player, Tony Liberatore and North Melbourne player, John Longmire."

"It's well documented that they

**Diegos:** "You have been declared Carlton's official ambassador for the period of your layoff."

"How are the cocktail parties, State dinners and weekend invitations away on the yachts of the various rich and famous going?"

**Colosimo:** "It's going really well. To really hang out with the rich and famous I'm going to start going out

ent attitude on the pitch in the future because of it?"

**Colosimo:** "I think the ego comment was just out of anger. The whole saga has toughened me up."

"I'm not going to approach games against the likes of Manchester United, Liverpool, AC Milan or anybody for that matter, having too much respect for the opposition."



Simon Colosimo(right) and Manchester United's Ryan Giggs: The match was both a highlight and lowlight.

both did very well with their knee rehabilitation. In Libber's case, he was back playing senior football within four months. So I'm definitely desperate to speak to guys like that."

with Eddie Krncevic though.

"I plan on visiting his tailor and getting a few stylish suits made. I'm sure with similar classy threads I won't feel out of place."

"Previously my approach was that I didn't want to go into the game wanting to kick anybody now, after what happened, I'll adopt more of an uncompromising approach."

**Diegos:** "In the aftermath of your knee injury you accused Andy Cole of possessing a big ego. He apparently is a big fan of Skyhooks and knows all the words to 'Ego is not a Dirty Word'."

"Some say that you must be arrogant, surly and almost ruthless to make the top of the professional ranks. You are, on the other hand, known as an unscrupulously fair player."

"Has this experience toughened you up and will you adopt a differ-

**Diegos:** "Thanks Simon. After six months in the gym no one will want to come near you because you'll most probably look more like 'Libber' anyway. All the best during your rehabilitation. Adios Amigo!"

**Colosimo:** "Thanks Diegos and thanks to all the supporters and friends who have shown their concern and offered their wishes. Adios Amigos!"

**The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am - 12 midday. E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com**



# NSW Soccer Federation

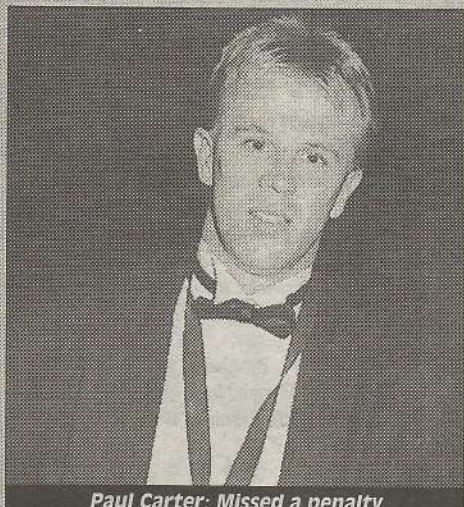
**M**anly-Warringah booked a place in the 1999 First Division Grand Final with a penalty shoot-out win over St George at Moorebank's Hammondville Oval on Sunday, the last of the Dolphins' five penalties coming from the boot of Alan Hunter to seal the Saints' fate.

Manly keeper Dean McCreath had saved the first two of the Saints' penalties, which player-coach Paul Carter got under way with a shot that the keeper read very well and those early misses then set up the win for Manly.

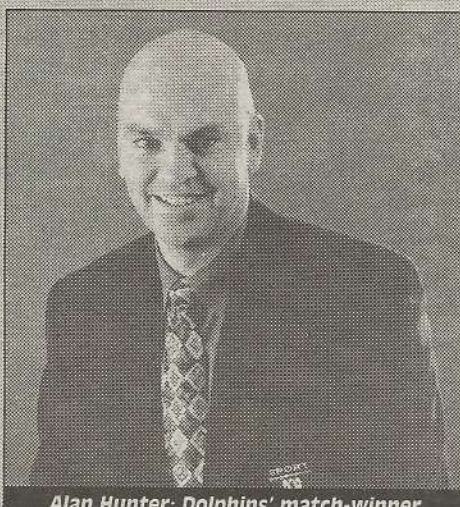
The teams had played for two hours without breaking the deadlock and it was clear that St George were missing their injured pairing of Stefan Janic and Tim Preston, neither of whom is likely to be playing again for some time.

In the other game at St George Stadium Penrith edged out Stanmore 1-0, with a late goal from substitute Robert Wozniczka and a superb display by new Parramatta Power goalkeeper Mike Gibson denying the Hawks with some fine saves. The most important save came from Nick Kambounias deep into stoppage time, which avoided the need for extra time and was from point blank range.

## Manly into Grand Final



Paul Carter: Missed a penalty



Alan Hunter: Dolphins' match-winner



Mike Gibson: Superb display

### DIVISION ONE MAJOR SEMI FINAL

**FIRST GRADE:** Manly Warringah 0 drew St George 0 (Manly Warringah 0 drew St George 0 Extra Time, Manly Warringah 4 bt St George 3 Penalties).

**UNDER 21:** St George 2 bt Manly Warringah 0.

**UNDER 18:** AC United 4 bt Penrith Panthers 2.

### MINOR SEMI FINAL

**FIRST GRADE:** Penrith Panthers 1 (R Wozniczka 80m) bt Stanmore Hawks 0.

**UNDER 21:** AC United 3 bt Penrith Panthers 1.

**UNDER 18:** Moorebank Sports 1 drew Stanmore Hawks 1 (Moorebank Sports 1 drew Stanmore Hawks 1 Extra time, Moorebank Sports 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 3 Penalties).

### DIVISION TWO

**FIRST GRADE:** Belmore Hercules 2 bt Greystanes 1, Sydney University 5 bt Sydney District 1, Hurstville ZSC 2 bt Sydney District 0, University of NSW 3 bt Greystanes 1, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Arncliffe Scots 1, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Hills United 1, Sydney University 8 bt Belmore Hercules 2, Fraser Park 7 bt Mt Druitt Town 0.

**UNDER 21:** Greystanes 1 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Sydney University 2 bt Sydney District 1, University of NSW 6 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hurstville ZSC 3 bt Sydney District 2, Greystanes 5 bt University of NSW 0, Arncliffe Scots vs Hajduk Wanderers W/O, Hills United 6 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Belmore Hercules vs Sydney University P/P, Fraser Park 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 0.

**UNDER 18:** Greystanes 2 drew Belmore Hercules 2, Sydney University 3 bt Sydney District 0, Sydney District vs Hurstville ZSC W/O, University of NSW 3 bt Greystanes 2, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Hills United 0, Belmore Hercules 4 bt Sydney University 3, Mt Druitt Town 3 bt Fraser Park 0.

### DIVISION THREE

**FIRST GRADE:** White City 24 bt Maroubra United 0, Prospect United 3 bt Trasandinos 1, Western Sydney Lions 3 bt Gladesville United 1, Hakoah vs Camden Tigers W/O, Colo Colo 2 bt Parramatta City 1, The Wanderers 4 bt Liverpool City 1, Trasandinos 5 bt Prospect United 3.

**SECOND GRADE:** Maroubra United 5 bt White City 0, Trasandinos 4 bt Western Sydney Lions 1, Western Sydney Lions 4 bt Gladesville United 3, Hakoah vs Camden Tigers W/O, Parramatta City 3 bt Colo Colo 2, The Wanderers 2 bt Liverpool City 1, Prospect United 3 bt Trasandinos 1.

### DIVISION FOUR

**FIRST GRADE:** Balmain 1 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, Granville Greenisland 2 drew Nepean District 2, Prairiewood United 4 bt Sydney Crescent 0, CSI Schofields 4 bt Marrickville 1, Hawkesbury City 3 bt White Valley 0, Holy Cross Ryde 4 bt Springwood 1, Auburn Star 1 bt United Eagles 0.

**SECOND GRADE:** Balmain 2 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, Nepean District 5 bt Granville Greenisland 1, Prairiewood United 8 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1, Marrickville 3 bt CSI Schofields 2, Hawkesbury City 5 bt White Valley 1, Springwood 3 bt Holy Cross Ryde 2, United Eagles 4 bt Auburn Star 3.

### DIVISION FIVE

**FIRST GRADE:** Earlwood Hermes 2 bt Liverpool Olympic 1, UTS 4 bt Homenetmen 1, Kosciusko 3 bt Sydney Tusc 1, UTS 3 bt Kosciusko 0, Bossy 6 bt Sydney United Kings 1, Sporting SCC 2 drew Lithgow Workmen 2, Kellyville Kolts 8 bt Sydney Tusc 0, Earlwood Hermes 4 bt Homenetmen 2, Liverpool Olympic 3 bt Macquarie Sports 0.

**SECOND GRADE:** Liverpool Olympic 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, Sydney United Kings 5 bt Lithgow Workmen 2, UTS 3 bt Homenetmen 0, Kosciusko 5 bt Sydney Tusc 3, UTS vs Kosciusko W/O, Bossy 5 bt Sydney United Kings 1, Lithgow Workmen 2 bt Sporting SCC 0, Kellyville Kolts 4 bt Sydney Tusc 1, Earlwood Hermes 3 bt Homenetmen 0, Liverpool Olympic 3 bt Macquarie Sports 0.

### WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

#### FINAL SERIES

**FIRST GRADE:** NNSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Sydney United 0, Marconi Fairfield 4 bt UWS Macarthur 1.

**UNDER 21:** NNSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Sydney United 0, NSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Gladesville Ravens 0.

#### MINOR SEMI FINAL

**FIRST GRADE:** Sutherland Sharks 5 bt Nepean Panthers 1.

**SECOND GRADE:** Sutherland Sharks 2 bt NSW ITC/Academy 0.

### WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

#### FINAL SERIES

#### MAJOR SEMI FINAL

**FIRST GRADE:** Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Bathurst City 0. **UNDER 19:** Manly Warringah 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 1 (Manly Warringah 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 0 Extra Time, Manly Warringah 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 1 Penalties).

#### MINOR SEMI FINAL

**FIRST GRADE:** Manly Warringah 1 bt St George Association 0. **UNDER 19:** St George Association 5 bt Roselands 3.

### SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

**UNDER 13:** Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 2, Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 6 bt Sydney United 0, Sydney Olympic 5 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 2 bt Southern Branch 0, Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 6 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Blacktown City 15 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Southern Branch vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Sydney Olympic 4 bt Sutherland Sharks 3, Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Sydney United 0.

**UNDER 14:** Leichhardt Tigers 4 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Gladesville Hornsby 4 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 1 drew Sydney United 1, Sydney Olympic 1 drew Macarthur Rams 1, Southern Branch 3 bt Southern Districts 0, Central Coast 0 drew Newcastle Breakers 0, Wollongong Wolves 6 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Blacktown City 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Southern Branch vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Sydney Olympic

8 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Newcastle Breakers 2 drew Sydney United 2.

**UNDER 15:** Marconi Fairfield 4 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Manly Warringah 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Blacktown City 2 bt Sydney United 1, Sydney Olympic 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 4 bt Southern Branch 0, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Central Coast 0, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 2, Blacktown City 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Southern Branch vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Sydney Olympic 1, Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Sydney United 2.

**UNDER 16:** Marconi Fairfield vs Leichhardt Tigers W/O, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Manly Warringah 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Blacktown City 6 bt Sydney United 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Southern Districts 4 bt Southern Branch 2, Newcastle Breakers 5 bt Central Coast 0, Eastern Suburbs vs Wollongong Wolves P/P, Blacktown City 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Sydney United 0.

### DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

**UNDER 13:** Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association 3 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Rockdale City 0, AC United 4 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, Blacktown Association 2 drew St George 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 bt Canterbury Association 0, Ryde City 0 drew Hills United 0, Rockdale City vs Blacktown Association W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles White Eagles W/O, Bankstown Association 2 bt St George 1, AC United 4 bt Canterbury Association 1.

**UNDER 14:** Canterbury M'Ville 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Bankstown Association 0, Illawarra Lions 1 drew Rockdale City 1, AC United 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, Blacktown Association 1 bt St George 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 8 bt Canterbury Association 0, Ryde City 2 bt Hills United 1, Rockdale City vs Blacktown Association W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Bankstown Association 3 bt St George 0, Canterbury Association 0 drew AC United 0.

**UNDER 15:** Stanmore Hawks 3 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown Association 4 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Rockdale City 0, AC United 2 drew Fairfield Bulls 2, Blacktown Association 3 bt St George 2, Canterbury Association 3 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Hills United 1 bt Ryde City 0, Rockdale City vs Blacktown Association W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Bankstown Association 2 bt St George 1, AC United 1 bt Canterbury Association 0.

**UNDER 16:** Canterbury M'Ville 1 drew Stanmore Hawks 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Bankstown Association 2, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Rockdale City 0, AC United 0 drew Fairfield Bulls 0, Blacktown Association 3 bt St George 0, Canterbury Association 1 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Ryde City 4 bt Hills United 0, Rockdale City vs Blacktown Association W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Bankstown Association 4 bt St George 1, Canterbury Association 4 bt AC United 1.

### DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

**UNDER 13:** Nepean Association 8 bt Parramatta City 0, Macquarie Sports 2 bt CSI Schofields 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 4 bt Granville Association 1, Mt Pritchard 3 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town 7 bt Camden Tigers 2, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 4 bt Granville Association 1, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt CSI Schofields 0.

**UNDER 14:** Parramatta City 2 bt Nepean Association 1, CSI Schofields 1 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Granville Association 1 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Mt Pritchard 1 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Mt Druitt Town, Hawkesbury City 5 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 1 drew Granville Association 1, Macquarie Sports 5 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt CSI Schofields 2.

**UNDER 15:** Parramatta City 4 bt Nepean Association 0, Macquarie Sports 4 bt CSI Schofields 3, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3 bt Granville Association 0, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 bt Camden Tigers 0, Moorebank Sports 2 drew Hawkesbury 2, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Granville Association 1, Moorebank Sports 2 drew Macquarie Sports 2, Hajduk Wanderers 7 bt CSI Schofields 1.

**UNDER 16:** Parramatta City 2 bt Nepean Association 1, CSI Schofields 2 drew Macquarie Sports 2, Granville Association 3 bt Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Mt Pritchard 1 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Mt Druitt Town 0 drew Camden Tigers 0, Hawkesbury City 3 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hawkesbury City 1 drew Granville Association 1, Macquarie Sports 4 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt CSI Schofields 1.

### CADET LEAGUE:

#### DIVISION ONE

**UNDER 11:** Macarthur Rams 4 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Marconi Fairfield vs Eastern Suburbs W/O, Sydney United 4 bt Ryde City 0, St George 7 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Canterbury M'Ville 4 bt Parramatta City 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 drew St George 1.

**UNDER 12:** Marconi Fairfield vs Eastern Suburbs W/O, Ryde City 2 drew Sydney United 2, St George 8 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Canterbury M'Ville 1 drew Parramatta City 1, Parramatta Eagles 6 bt St George 3.

### CADET LEAGUE

#### DIVISION TWO

**UNDER 11:** Illawarra Lions 4 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, CSI Schofields 5 bt Hawkesbury City 4, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Penrith Panthers 0, AC United 3 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Illawarra Lions 9 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hills United 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, Macquarie Sports 5 bt Hurstville City 0.

**UNDER 12:** Illawarra Lions 4 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Macquarie Sports 5 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, CSI Schofields 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, AC United 3 bt Hajduk Wanderers 2, Illawarra Lions 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Hills United 4 bt Mt Druitt Town 0, Macquarie Sports 9 bt Hurstville City 1.



# VICTORIAN LEAGUES



## CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 22

Melbourne City 3 - Lalor United 1  
Northcote City 1 - North Geelong Warriors 0  
Springvale City 1 - Oakleigh 2  
Western Suburbs 3 - Yarraville Glory 1  
Doncaster Rovers 0 - Werribee City 1  
Kingston City 1 - Westgate 0  
Heidelberg United 0 - Richmond 0

|                      | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Heidelberg United    | 22 | 14 | 5 | 3  | 47 | 25 | 47  |
| Oakleigh             | 22 | 14 | 4 | 4  | 45 | 23 | 46  |
| Lalor United         | 22 | 11 | 6 | 5  | 43 | 30 | 39  |
| Westgate             | 22 | 11 | 4 | 7  | 36 | 29 | 37  |
| Western Suburbs      | 22 | 9  | 4 | 9  | 36 | 34 | 31  |
| Yarraville Glory     | 22 | 8  | 6 | 8  | 37 | 35 | 30  |
| Richmond             | 22 | 7  | 8 | 7  | 31 | 33 | 29  |
| Doncaster Rovers     | 22 | 7  | 6 | 9  | 37 | 36 | 27  |
| Nth Geelong Warriors | 22 | 6  | 8 | 8  | 30 | 32 | 26  |
| Melbourne City       | 22 | 8  | 2 | 12 | 34 | 43 | 26  |
| Springvale City      | 22 | 7  | 4 | 11 | 29 | 33 | 25  |
| Northcote City       | 22 | 7  | 3 | 12 | 43 | 49 | 24  |
| Kingston City        | 22 | 6  | 4 | 12 | 23 | 46 | 22  |
| Werribee City        | 22 | 4  | 6 | 12 | 22 | 45 | 18  |

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 2 - ROUND 22

Essendon 1 - Frankston Pines 3  
East Richmond 3 - Thomastown/Regent 1  
Satellite City Rovers 1 - Knox City 3  
Croydon City Arrows 2 - Ringwood City 2  
Geelong 3 - Cranbourne Comets 3  
Frankston Strikers 2 - Diamond Valley United 1  
Old Scotch Waverley 6 - Altona City 0

|                       | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Essendon              | 22 | 14 | 7 | 1  | 59 | 18 | 49  |
| Frankston Pines       | 21 | 14 | 5 | 2  | 57 | 23 | 47  |
| Knox City             | 22 | 12 | 4 | 6  | 40 | 20 | 40  |
| Geelong               | 22 | 9  | 6 | 7  | 39 | 44 | 33  |
| Old Scotch Waverley   | 21 | 8  | 8 | 5  | 27 | 24 | 32  |
| Frankston Strikers    | 22 | 9  | 4 | 9  | 44 | 31 | 31  |
| East Richmond         | 22 | 8  | 7 | 7  | 31 | 35 | 31  |
| Altona City           | 22 | 9  | 3 | 10 | 21 | 40 | 30  |
| Cranbourne Comets     | 22 | 6  | 8 | 8  | 38 | 37 | 26  |
| Ringwood City         | 22 | 6  | 6 | 10 | 29 | 48 | 24  |
| Thomastown/Regent     | 22 | 6  | 4 | 12 | 33 | 44 | 22  |
| Satellite City Rovers | 22 | 5  | 5 | 12 | 20 | 40 | 20  |
| Diamond Valley Utd    | 22 | 4  | 7 | 11 | 25 | 40 | 19  |
| Croydon City Arrows   | 22 | 3  | 6 | 13 | 24 | 43 | 15  |

### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday August 21  
Round 10 postponed game  
Old Scotch Waverley v Frankston Pines (seniors and reserves)

### DIVISION 3 - ROUND 22

North Coburg United 1 - Mooroolbark 0  
Banyule City 6 - Bell Park 1  
Laverton Park 1 - Broadmeadows City 3  
Stonnington City 0 - Fitzroy City 1  
Moreland City 4 - Keilor Park 1  
South Springvale 0 - South Wantirna 2  
Pascoe Vale 2 - Williamstown 2

|                  | P  | W  | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| South Wantirna   | 22 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 41 | 19 | 46  |
| Stonnington City | 22 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 53 | 27 | 45  |

|                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Fitzroy City        | 22 | 12 | 8  | 2  | 44 | 24 | 44 |
| North Coburg United | 22 | 13 | 3  | 6  | 43 | 30 | 42 |
| South Springvale    | 22 | 9  | 11 | 2  | 37 | 17 | 38 |
| Moreland City       | 22 | 10 | 5  | 7  | 42 | 32 | 35 |
| Laverton Park       | 22 | 8  | 7  | 7  | 38 | 35 | 31 |
| Mooroolbark         | 22 | 7  | 5  | 10 | 24 | 37 | 26 |
| Pascoe Vale         | 22 | 6  | 5  | 11 | 32 | 46 | 23 |
| Williamstown        | 22 | 5  | 7  | 10 | 33 | 43 | 22 |
| Keilor Park         | 22 | 6  | 3  | 13 | 25 | 38 | 21 |
| Broadmeadows City   | 21 | 4  | 6  | 11 | 31 | 45 | 18 |
| Bell Park           | 22 | 4  | 6  | 12 | 27 | 53 | 18 |
| Banyule City        | 21 | 1  | 6  | 14 | 22 | 46 | 9  |

### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday August 21  
Round 10 postponed game  
Banyule City v Broadmeadows City (seniors only)

Round 12 postponed game  
Mooroolbark v Broadmeadows City (reserves only)

Round 13 postponed game  
South Wantirna v Banyule City (reserves only)

### DIVISION 4 - ROUND 22

Chelsea 1 - Langwarrin 3  
Crofton Park 1 - Geelong Rangers 0  
Sunbury United 1 - Keysborough 0  
Clifton Hill United 1 - Corio 3  
Lyndale United 0 - Melton 1  
Seaford United 6 - Nunawading City 1  
Lalor 2 - Sandringham City 4

|                     | P  | W  | D  | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Langwarrin          | 22 | 19 | 1  | 2  | 72 | 20 | 58  |
| Sandringham City    | 22 | 15 | 3  | 4  | 68 | 36 | 48  |
| Seaford United      | 22 | 14 | 3  | 5  | 51 | 33 | 45  |
| Lyndale United      | 21 | 11 | 5  | 5  | 44 | 32 | 38  |
| Crofton Park        | 22 | 9  | 10 | 3  | 45 | 29 | 37  |
| Sunbury United      | 22 | 10 | 3  | 9  | 39 | 37 | 33  |
| Melton              | 22 | 9  | 5  | 8  | 33 | 33 | 32  |
| Geelong Rangers     | 22 | 7  | 4  | 11 | 33 | 43 | 25  |
| Lalor               | 21 | 7  | 4  | 10 | 35 | 46 | 25  |
| Corio               | 22 | 6  | 6  | 10 | 32 | 49 | 24  |
| Keysborough         | 22 | 5  | 4  | 13 | 41 | 40 | 19  |
| Chelsea             | 22 | 4  | 5  | 13 | 31 | 56 | 17  |
| Clifton Hill United | 22 | 5  | 2  | 15 | 30 | 62 | 17  |
| Nunawading City     | 22 | 3  | 3  | 16 | 24 | 62 | 12  |

### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday August 21  
Round 10 postponed game  
Crofton Park v Keysborough (reserves only)  
Round 13 postponed game  
Lyndale United v Lalor (seniors and reserves)



## WOMEN'S LEAGUES

### PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 17

Westvale v Endeavour United - no result received  
Heidelberg United 0 - Cranbourne A 6  
Manningham 7 - Essendon A 1  
Keilor Park - bye  
South Melbourne - bye

Table - Cranbourne A 39, Manningham 30, Keilor Park 25, South Melbourne 19, Westvale 17, Essendon A 11, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 17

Yarraville Glory 6 - Ballarat Strikers 0  
Seaford United 4 - Cranbourne B 3  
Newborough/Yallourn 3 - Endeavour Hills 0  
Knox County - bye

Waverley Taipans - bye

Table - Cranbourne B 37, Newborough/Yallourn 25, Yarraville Glory 23, Seaford United 23, Knox County 18, Endeavour Hills 16, Waverley Taipans 4, Ballarat Strikers 3.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 17

Thornbury United v Fairfield Falcons A - no result received  
Mill Park 1 - Ballarat City 6  
Eltham North v Brimbank - no result received  
Laverton Park v Brunswick City - no result received  
Calder Strikers 3 - Essendon B 0

Table - Ballarat City 44, Brimbank 36, Laverton Park 31, Brunswick City 31, Eltham North 28, Calder Strikers 23, Fairfield Falcons A 20, Essendon B 12, Mill Park 8, Thornbury United 2.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 17

Frankston Pines v Monbulk - no result received  
Gippsland Falcons 0 - Carringbush 2  
South Wantirna v Monash University - postponed  
Bentleigh Greens - bye  
Springvale City - bye

Table - Bentleigh Greens 39, Carringbush 34, Springvale City 23, Gippsland Falcons 21, Monash University 12, South Wantirna 8, Monbulk 7, Frankston Pines 3.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 17

Diamond Valley United 1 - Melbourne Raiders 2  
Fairfield Falcons B v Pascoe Vale - no result received  
La Trobe University 5 - Deakin University 0  
Melton v Maribyrnong United - no result received  
North Reservoir - bye

Table - North Reservoir 42, Melton 34, Melbourne Raiders 33, Fairfield Falcons B 22, La Trobe University 20, Pascoe Vale 15, Deakin University 13, Diamond Valley United 6, Maribyrnong United 5.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 13

Monash Gryphon v Box Hill Inter - no result received  
Hampton Park 4 - East Bentleigh 0  
Sandringham City v Crystal United - no result received  
Melbourne University - bye

Table - Hampton Park 28, Box Hill Inter 24, Melbourne University 17, Monash Gryphon 15, East Bentleigh 7, Sandringham City 6, Crystal United 4.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

## PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 19

Morwell Pegasus 1 - Endeavour United 1  
Monbulk v Riversdale - postponed  
South Caulfield 1 - Brunswick City 5  
Sydenham Park 5 - Dandenong 3  
Mitcham United 1 - Templestowe Eagles 4  
Springvale Condors 3 - North Sunshine Eagles 0

Table - Endeavour United 50, Morwell Pegasus 45, Brunswick City 44, Sydenham Park 32, Riversdale 28, Templestowe Eagles 24, Mitcham United 22, North Sunshine Eagles 17, Monbulk 15, Dandenong 14, South

Caulfield 10, Springvale Condors 10.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 19

Broadmeadows United 1 - Hoppers Crossing 6  
South Yarra 0 - Melbourne University 0  
Glenroy v Somerton City - no result received  
Mill Park 1 - Ballarat 0  
University of Melbourne 0 - Elwood City 1  
Keon Park 2 - Meadow Park 0

Table - Hoppers Crossing 46, Elwood City 41, Glenroy 38, Somerton City 36, Ballarat 29, University of Melbourne 26, Mill Park 22, Broadmeadows United 21, Melbourne University 21, South Yarra 13, Keon Park 13, Meadow Park 7.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 19

Doveton 7 - Noble Park 0  
Heatherton United 1 - Ashburton 1  
Monash University 1 - Dandenong Inter 1  
Waverley Wanderers 1 - Clayton 2  
Dingley City 1 - Brandon Park 9  
Braeside United 0 - Newborough/Yallourn 2

Table - Clayton 44, Doveton 41, Waverley Wanderers 41, Newborough/Yallourn 29, Heatherton United 28, Brandon Park 26, Dingley City 26, Ashburton 23, Braeside United 18, Dandenong Inter 16, Monash University 16, Noble Park 11.

### THIS WEEKEND

Saturday August 21  
Round 18 deferred game  
Noble Park v Monash University (seniors only)

### DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 19

Watsonia Heights 5 - West Preston 3  
La Trobe University 2 - North Reservoir 2  
Brimbank 1 - Whittlesea United 2  
Darebin United 4 - Flemington Falcons 3  
North Glenroy 2 - Northern United 3  
Keilor United 1 - Brimbank City 2

Table - Whittlesea United 47, North Glenroy 38, Darebin United 34, Brimbank 31, Brimbank City 30, Keilor United 29, North Reservoir 21, Flemington Falcons 21, La Trobe University 21, Northern United 19, Watsonia Heights 18, West Preston 9.

NO FIXTURES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND

### DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 19

Collingwood City 3 - Rowville Eagles 3  
Noble Park United 2 - Moreland United 1  
North Caulfield 3 - Newport United 1  
Parkmore 2 - Beaumaris 2  
Old Camberwell Grammar 0 - Ivanhoe United 0  
Thornbury United 0 - Endeavour Hills 9

Table - Noble Park United 39, North Caulfield 38, Endeavour Hills 34, Moreland United 32, Ivanhoe United 28, Collingwood City 27, Rowville Eagles 27, Thornbury United 23, Old Camberwell Grammar 20, Beaumaris 19, Newport United 11, Parkmore 10.

### THIS WEEKEND

Sunday August 22  
Round 2 postponed game  
North Caulfield v Thornbury United (seniors only)

Round 18 deferred game  
Moreland United v Collingwood City (seniors only)



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# PREMIER LEAGUE



## BULLEEN 2 PORT 2

By Chris Elysee

Needing nothing less than a win to be a chance of taking out the championship, Port Melbourne failed at the last hurdle, managing only a 2-2 draw in the final match of the season at the Veneto Club against Bulleen.

However, a win would have made the championship harder to swallow, given the fact that Green Gully successfully beat St Albans to ensure the Cavaliers are crowned premiers.

One cannot question the intensity of the Sharks in this game, as they came out with all guns blazing, hell-bent on making sure the title race went down to the wire.

Nick Tsaltas and Peter Kakos had half-chances in the first 10 minutes, but both were thwarted by the resilient Sean Keogh in the Bulleen goal.

Port continued to search for the opening goal, with a Jimmy Latinopoulos free kick and a John Pappas overhead shot testing Keogh yet again. However, as Bulleen started to settle, they found some momentum, with an Anthony Grbac free kick shot straight at Jamie Cooper in the Sharks' goal.

George Tzirtis missed a golden opportunity to give Port the lead shortly after, as he failed to hit the target from 10 yards after he had been expertly released by Kakos.

In the 43rd minute Bulleen produced a goal out of nothing. Against the run of play, Danny Gnjdjic released Sava Rusmir with a ball that beat the offside trap. Whilst Rusmir looked to be in an offside position, he coolly finished at Cooper's right hand post, giving the Sharks food for thought in the half time interval.

Port needed to respond affirmatively in the second half and respond they did. In the 55th minute, they manufactured an equaliser, with a Roddy Vargas long ball finding Tsaltas who beat the advancing Keogh to tap the ball into an unguarded net.

They went ahead in the 63rd minute, as a Latinopoulos cross was not cleared by the Bulleen defence, with the ensuing goal mouth scramble gifting Tsaltas his second of the game.

Port continued to surge ahead, with Stavros Dimas and Kakos going close to scoring again. But just when Port looked to have the game sewn up, Bulleen fought back, managing a 76th minute equaliser when Robert Stojcevski produced a quality cross for Gnjdjic to head home from close range.

Port coach, Peter Tsolakis, cited the 1-0 loss to Green Gully as the turning point of the season, as his side had "a lapse that every side does have" after this game, failing to take any points home in a three week period. When asked if the depth of his side hurt him, he replied: "We lost six players during the course of the year and in the end that told, as I had to promote a lot of youngsters to play in the first team."

Tsolakis is still harbouring a burning desire to succeed at Port Melbourne, hoping that that club will give him the opportunity to continue next year.

**Kings:** Keogh, Valentic (Stojcevski), Della Rocca, Mazzini, Babic (Collina), Tartaglia (Vucinic), Waddell, Gnjdjic, Grbac, Rusmir, Thomas.

**Sharks:** Cooper, Vargas, Latinopoulos, Fak, Tzirtis, Tsaltas, Caimakamis, Kakos, Heath, Dimas, Pappa.

**Referee:** Cain Naumcevski

**Votes:** 3- Tsaltas (PM), 2- Della Rocca (BK), 1- Rusmir (BK)

## ALTONA EAST 1 SPRINGVALE W.E 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Altona East Phoenix secured the point that assured them of Premier League football next season as they drew 1-1 with Springvale White Eagles on Sunday although the White Eagles are relegated to Division One.

The match was a tight, physical affair with the players tempers constantly tested.

After falling behind in 27 minutes, the Phoenix pulled themselves level with a goal three minutes into the second half, a goal that owed much to a poor piece of goalkeeping by Springvale's Nick Kalamaris.

Springvale, needing to win to ensure their survival, were the best side of the first half and were probably disappointed that they went in at the break only 1-0 ahead.

They had a good claim for a penalty turned down in the 18th minute when Sasa Nikolic was sent tumbling.

Nine minutes later though, they got the goal their pressure deserved.

Nikolic did all of the hard work, jinking his way through the penalty area before crossing for Milan Mihajlovic to bundle a shot over the line.

Though they were dominating possession, Springvale struggled to create clear cut chances.

Eric Styczen's shot in the 30th minute was well saved by Phoenix keeper Sam Frangos.

Frangos had more work to do shortly after. Sinisa Cohadzic's inswinging corner was fisted clear by Frangos, but only as far as Cohadzic who followed up with a superb volley that Frangos did well to tap over the bar.

The home side levelled the game in the 48th minute when Kalamaris fumbled a relatively straightforward cross. Peter Groidis was in the right place to stab the ball in.

Frangos excelled again in the 63rd minute, saving Styczen's header from point-blank range.

He should have been punished shortly after though, dropping a Mariano Calomino free kick at the feet of William Armour who snatched at the chance and sent it way over the bar.

Armour kept his side in the game two minutes later when he cleared off the line from George Angelos.

It counted for little in the end as the White Eagles were unable to find a winner.

**Phoenix:** Frangos, R.Antoniadis, Dimitrelos, De Amicis, Schwal, Groidis (Davis), T.Antoniadis (F.Catalano), L.Catalano, Bartol, Papadopoulos, Angelos.

**White Eagles:** Kalamaris, Mlinar, Oter, Styczen, Rikanovic, Poutakidis, Nikolic, Armour, Cohadzic (Calomino), Z.Mihajlovic, M.Mihajlovic (Mandic).

**Referee:** Jim Ouliaris

**Votes:** 3- Dimitrelos (AE), 2- Mlinar (SWE), 1- Armour (SWE).

## BENTLEIGH 6 SUNSHINE 0

By Patrick Tomson

With Sunshine already consigned to the first division and Bentleigh safe from relegation but nor in contention for top honours, the only accolade at stake was that of "Top goalscorer" for Bentleigh's Juan Nilo, who did not disappoint.

Four second half goals for the skilled Nilo, placed the final nails in the Georgies coffin and was enough to provide him an equal tally for the Top Goalscorer for the Premier League in 1999.

Surprisingly, it was Sunshine to commence the better of the two sides and even managed to score a goal in the opening minutes, but the score did not count due to an offside decision.

With a fairly soft and muddy playing surface, the Georgies used the conditions to their advantage early on. However, almost against the run of play, Bentleigh's John Papettas popped up inside the 18 yard box to slot away an acute cut-back from Predrag Mladenovic for the Greens' first.

The goal inspired the home side who took control of the game for the rest of the match. Some fantastic lead up work by Bentleigh sweeper, Nick Rossios, lead to Bentleigh's second in the 37th minute. A tantalising cross found the head of Mladenovic who made no mistake from close range.

The second half belonged to the man of the match Juan Nilo, whose display netted four goals to highlight the Greens' domination.

His first arrived in the 46th minute, where a delicate flick-on found Nilo near the penalty spot with only the keeper to beat. He did not disappoint and repeated his close range finishing minutes later with a clinical header from a corner.

Mid-way through the half Nilo was quick to dispossess Sunshine's John Kanesoulis and punish them for their mistake with his third.

Nilo had left his best goal till last, when in the 77th minute, a dazzling run outside the 18 yard box left his defenders back-peddalling. A left foot shot found the top corner of the goal to seal Sunshine's fate.

**Greens:** Clarke, Kourkoutzelos (Grella), Micheil (Lenetis), McDonagh (Argiros), Constantinou, Drakos, Rossios, Mladenovic, Papettas, Nilo, Kotsovolos.

**Georgies:** Wardle (Myers), Bot (Olguin), Rozanitis, Kanesoulis, Debono, Tambouras, Elvin, Recchia, Opazo, Stojanovski (Sacco), Schiafone.

**Referee:** Senko Rastocic

**Votes:** 3- Nilo (BG), 2- Rossios (BG), 1- Mladenovic (BG)

## FAWKNER 2 ALTONA 1

By ABSW

Fawknor Blues rounded off their good season with a 2-1 win over Altona Magic on Sunday. The Blues finish the year in fourth spot on the Premier League table, an excellent result considering they lost five their first eight games.

The game meant very little to either of them, with neither side a chance to win the championship or be relegated, and the match was played like there was nothing at stake.

Martin Collins gave Fawknor an early lead when he headed in Nathan Alexopoulos' cross.

That lead was doubled in the 37th minute by the

evergreen Josip Biskic, who had played a one-two with Peter Psarros before scoring from close range.

Altona substitute, Steve Markovski, pulled a goal back in the 78th minute with a spectacular volley.

**Blues:** Gonzales, Tramontana, De Santis, Schipano, Di Sauro, Collins, Bordignon (Vazzocchi), Biskic (Murphy), Alexopoulos, Duzel, Psarros (Emmanuele).

**Magic:** McGrath, Ristevski, Micevski, T.Markovski, Vasilevski, Sapazovski, Velkovski (Todorovski), Madarovski, Petrevski (S.Markovski), Trifunov, Bozinovski.

**Referee:** Dominic Barba

**Votes:** 3- Biskic (FB), 2- Bordignon (FB), 1- Vasilevski (AM).

## GREEN GULLY 5 ST ALBANS 1

By Ivan Perkov

The last Victorian Premier League title of the 20th century was clinched in emphatic style by Green Gully, thumping St Albans 5-1.

It all began as early as the 6th minute, when Zdravko Atanasovski hit a long, diagonal through ball into the path of George Svigos; the diminutive midfielder finishing well as Marijan Vunderl came out to narrow the angle.

In the 18th minute, out of nowhere, Damien Vojtek went on a mazy run and, after playing a one-two with Harry Karl, he expertly slotted the ball through for Karl to run on and score.

It showed that there was something at stake as Gully chased harder and tackled harder than ever, for them it was a case of now or never.

When Sonny Sevin came off injured, Brandon Vassallo took his place and this substitution won the match. It was the 29th minute when Vassallo picked out an unmarked Nick Papadopoulos, his header made it 2-1.

Then, two minutes before half time, another wicked Atanasovski ball was met by an alert Zlatko Donev to

make it 3-1 at the break.

When St Albans midfielder Krunislav Razov was sent off for a second bookable offence, Green Gully began to exploit the one man advantage an duly kill off the game.

Daniel Genovesi came on for Donev and immediately scored, after the initial battling of Vassallo. He crossed for Tony Necesi to control and slide the ball in front of goal for Genovesi.

Towards the end, Necesi was rewarded with a goal after Steve Douglas had released him through the centre, sparking off celebrations on the Gully bench.

St Albans finished the season better than they had started, With Vid Horvat taking over in round 9 after Steve Rastocic's resignation, the Saints became one of the form teams of the league.

**Cavaliers:** Brian, Sevin (Vassallo), Atanasovski (Azzopardi), Douglas, Mangos, Svigos, Georgiadis, Markovski, Papadopoulos, Necesi, Donev (Genovesi).

**Saints:** Vunderl, I.Rados (Mrak), J.Cuze, Raspudic, Karl, K.Razov (sent off), Sianidis (Dragicevic), S.Rados (Mikulic), Vojtek, Saric, I.Razov.

**Referee:** Perry Mur

**Votes:** 3- Vassallo (GG), 2- Papadopoulos (GG), 1- Atanasovski (GG).

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## ROUND 25

Westvale 1 (Zach) - Altona East Phoenix 2 (Angelos 2)

Bulleen Inter Kings 3 (Babic 2, Gnjdjic) - Preston Lions 2 (Stojcevski, Ujgunovski)

## ROUND 26 (FINAL ROUND)

Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Rusmir, Gnjdjic) - Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (Tsaltas 2)

Preston Lions 3 (Filiposki, Stojcevski, Ujgunovski) - Westvale

Altona East Phoenix 1 (Groidis) - Springvale White Eagles 1 (M.Mihajlovic)

Bentleigh Greens 6 (Mladenovic, Papettas, Nilo 4) - Sunshine Georgies

Fawknor Blues 2 (Collins, Biskic) - Altona Magic 1 (S.Markovski)

Green Gully Cavaliers 5 (Svigos, Papadopoulos, Donev, Genovesi, Necesi) - St

Albans Saints 1 (Karl)

South Dandenong 0 - Melbourne Raiders 2 (Slifkas, Salievski)



|                       | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Green Gully Cavaliers | 26 | 16 | 8 | 2  | 58 | 25 | 56  |
| Port Melbourne Sharks | 26 | 16 | 5 | 5  | 59 | 30 | 53  |
| Preston Lions         | 26 | 15 | 2 | 9  | 50 | 37 | 47  |
| Fawknor Blues         | 26 | 14 | 4 | 8  | 48 | 33 | 46  |
| Bentleigh Greens      | 26 | 13 | 6 | 7  | 67 | 31 | 45  |
| Bulleen Inter Kings   | 26 | 10 | 8 | 8  | 40 | 35 | 38  |
| St Albans Saints      | 26 | 11 | 3 | 12 | 44 | 41 | 36  |
| Melbourne Raiders     | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 36 | 44 | 36  |
| Altona East Phoenix   | 26 | 8  | 7 | 11 | 29 | 38 | 31  |
| Altona Magic          | 26 | 8  | 7 | 11 | 36 | 47 | 31  |
| Spring. White Eagles  | 26 | 8  | 6 | 12 | 37 | 40 | 30  |
| South Dandenong       | 26 | 6  | 6 | 14 | 41 | 62 | 24  |
| Westvale              | 26 | 4  | 7 | 15 | 31 | 69 | 19  |
| Sunshine Georgies     | 26 | 4  | 3 | 19 | 26 | 70 | 15  |





# Qld Soccer Federation

**PERRY PARK**

Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Tel: 07 3252 5327 Fax: 07 3252 1137

By Glenn Davis



**T**he appointment of Frank Farina as the first Australian-born Soccerroo coach has been greeted warmly in his former home State of Queensland and now many are hoping it will lead to a "fair dinkum" selection process.

Farina is still Queensland's favourite soccer personality despite his controversial split with the Brisbane Strikers when he walked out to coach his former club Marconi at the start of the last national soccer league season.

Farina was one of the many who disliked the perceived southern bias against Queensland players and it's now hoped players from outside Sydney and Melbourne will receive due recognition when our overseas stars are not available.

For years, Queensland players have been disregarded by past Soccerroo coaches even to the point where former coach Eddie Thompson copped regular blasts in the media for not attending Strikers home matches to cast his critical eye over the quality of the Queensland players.

In the past Queensland players have had to pack their bags and move south permanently to gain recognition but that hopefully will now change under Farina.

Farina, 35, has made a meteoric rise through to the nation's top coaching job after just three years experience.

Born in Darwin, Farina was raised in Cairns and started his playing career as a junior with Edge Hill Colts before graduating to the State League side Mareeba.

From there he worked hard on his game and at 16 he made the Far North Queensland representative side where he was spotted and signed up with the Australian Institute of Sport.

Farina soon made the Young Soccerroos and represented Australia at the Seoul Olympics.

That was to be the start of an illustrious career, earning 37 senior Australian caps before making his name overseas at the highest level in Belgium, Italy and France.

Although relatively inexperienced in coaching, Farina makes up for it with his enthusiasm and ability to manage players which was evident by the Strikers win in the 1996/97 Ericsson Cup Grand Final before a crowd of 40,000 at Suncorp Stadium.

One of his former Queensland and Brisbane Strikers' teammates Danny Wright has high regard for Farina and is thrilled by Soccer Australia's decision to appoint Farina to the top job.

"As a player I don't think I've seen anyone so single minded or competitive as Frank," Wright said in a recent newspaper article in Brisbane.

"His determination to win overshadows anything.

"When he coached us in Brisbane he was able to instill a competitive edge in players.

"He is loyal and fair and if he lacks anything as far as modern coaching goes, he will make it up with his ability to mould a team and get the best out of the players."

Farina's appointment is a tremendous honour but his mission is to



Frank Farina ... Queensland's favourite son.

make the World Cup finals in 2002.

Australia has buckled under pressure in too many World Cup campaigns since Rale Rasic's 1974 success, but if he does it his way Farina could well be successful.

## GOLD COAST IS STILL ALIVE

A late goal by midfielder Eddie Lees kept Gold Coast's premier league title hopes alive in a thrilling 1-nil win against Brisbane Lions at Lions Stadium on Sunday.

If the Gold Coast is to capitalise on any slip up by leaders Rochdale Rovers in the final two games, then they can thank the coolness shown by Lees in the dying minutes against Lions.

Lees, a former Australian Under 16 captain, calmly slipped into the box and drove home a shot past keeper Jason Lucas when the match appeared headed for a draw.

Gold Coast's win keeps them within two points of leaders Rochdale who recorded their 16th season win by thrashing Toowoomba 3-nil.

While the premiership remains open, but tilted in Rochdale's favour, the top four positions are still up for grabs following upset losses by third placed Taringa and Ipswich Knights.

Taringa blew a 1-nil half time lead to go down 3-2 to struggling Mt Gravatt while Ipswich, like Taringa, suffered their second successive defeat losing in a thriller 3-2 to Bundaberg.

Ipswich's loss, their eighth of the season, enabled Brisbane City to slip back into the top four after they downed Toowoomba 4-2 in a midweek catch up round before beating Wynnum 2-nil on Sunday.

At Lions Stadium, the action was thick and fast in the second half after Gold Coast and Brisbane Lions fought out a tame first period.

The second interval had plenty of fireworks with tempers on edge as both sides came to grips with the importance of a win.

Lions dominated much of the second period but some outstanding goal-keeping under pressure from the Gold Coast's Jamie Irwin kept the home-side scoreless.

Irwin proved invincible on crosses, one notable save when he plucked the ball from the head of Lions' striker Greg Di Losa who lined up to head home.

Lions' midfielder Cameron Watson produced a sensational overhead strike on goal which appeared to be bending under the crossbar, but Irwin managed to tip the shot over the bar on the back pedal.

Di Losa, who looked dangerous whenever he touched the ball, snapped a 30 metre shot through a wall of defenders halfway through the second half but again Irwin was on hand to snaffle up the curling shot.

The Gold Coast worked tireless and with their skilful midfielders grafted their way back into the game after substitute Troy Greenwood came on for striker Peter Grierson.

Striker Peter Dwyer watched a shot in the 75th minute trickle past the upright with Greenwood lofting the follow up over the crossbar.

Lions had their chance to equalise in time added on when a thundering shot from Di Losa rebounded off the chest of Irwin.

The visitors also could have added a second after an Adam Evans header off a corner smashed onto the upright in the dying seconds.

After an intriguing weekend of results, Rochdale Rovers move to 50 points, two clear of the Gold Coast with Brisbane City the big moves following their six-point pickup.

Brisbane City, who has had a horror run of injuries, is back in third place on 42 points, with Taringa and Lions sharing fourth place with 40 points.

Ipswich Knights have slipped outside the top four into sixth place, two points away.

Ipswich's hopes of making the semi-final could be decided when they meet Taringa in their catch up round on Tuesday week.

### ROUND 26

|       |               |   |                |        |
|-------|---------------|---|----------------|--------|
| 21-08 | Mt Gravatt    | v | Rochdale       | 7.00pm |
| 22-08 | Toowoomba UTD | v | Wynnum         | 2.45pm |
| 22-08 | Brisbane City | v | B'berg Waves   | 2.45pm |
| 22-08 | Ipswich       | v | Brisbane Lions | 2.45pm |
| 22-08 | Gold Coast    | v | Taringa        | 2.45pm |

### QLD XXXX LEAGUE

|                  | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | D   | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Rochdale Rov     | 25 | 16 | 2 | 7  | 60 | 35 | 25  | 50  |
| Gold Coast       | 25 | 13 | 9 | 3  | 50 | 31 | 19  | 48  |
| Brisbane City    | 25 | 13 | 3 | 9  | 45 | 35 | 10  | 42  |
| Taringa Rovers   | 24 | 12 | 4 | 8  | 42 | 27 | 15  | 40  |
| Brisbane Lions   | 25 | 12 | 4 | 9  | 51 | 38 | 13  | 40  |
| IPSW Knights     | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8  | 38 | 31 | 7   | 38  |
| Bunderberg Waves | 25 | 8  | 5 | 12 | 38 | 45 | -7  | 29  |
| Mt Gravatt       | 25 | 6  | 5 | 14 | 36 | 64 | -28 | 23  |
| Wynnum           | 25 | 6  | 3 | 16 | 35 | 58 | -23 | 21  |
| Toowoomba Utd    | 25 | 4  | 6 | 15 | 23 | 54 | -31 | 18  |

### ROUND 25 SCORES

|                |        |               |        |
|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Taringa Rovers | .....2 | Mt Gravatt    | .....3 |
| Brisbane Lions | .....0 | Gold Coast    | .....1 |
| B'berg Waves   | .....3 | IPSW Knights  | .....2 |
| Wynnum         | .....0 | Brisbane City | .....2 |
| Rochdale       | .....3 | Toowoomba UTD | .....0 |

### QLD DIVISION ONE NORTH

|                 | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | D   | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| North Star      | 22 | 14 | 4 | 4  | 55 | 27 | 28  | 46  |
| Albany Creek    | 21 | 12 | 6 | 3  | 49 | 28 | 21  | 42  |
| Pine Rivers Utd | 22 | 11 | 4 | 7  | 42 | 27 | 15  | 37  |
| Eastern Subs    | 22 | 10 | 7 | 5  | 42 | 29 | 13  | 37  |
| Uni of Qld      | 22 | 10 | 3 | 9  | 39 | 39 | 0   | 33  |
| Newmarket       | 22 | 8  | 6 | 8  | 36 | 39 | -3  | 30  |
| The Gap         | 22 | 6  | 4 | 12 | 39 | 56 | -17 | 22  |
| Grange Thistle  | 23 | 4  | 5 | 14 | 20 | 54 | -34 | 17  |
| Mitchelton      | 22 | 2  | 5 | 15 | 20 | 43 | -23 | 11  |

### ROUND 25 SCORES

|                 |        |                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Albany Creek    | .....6 | Newmarket       | .....1 |
| Pine Rivers Utd | .....1 | North Star      | .....2 |
| Mitchelton      | .....1 | The Gap         | .....1 |
| Grange Thistle  | .....1 | Eastern Suburbs | .....0 |

Uni of Qld - Bye

### QLD DIVISION ONE SOUTH

|              | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | D   | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Souths Utd   | 22 | 15 | 3 | 4  | 57 | 23 | 34  | 48  |
| Rocklea Utd  | 22 | 15 | 3 | 4  | 62 | 30 | 32  | 48  |
| Capalaba     | 23 | 15 | 1 | 7  | 49 | 26 | 23  | 46  |
| Slacks Creek | 23 | 10 | 5 | 8  | 56 | 47 | 9   | 35  |
| Inala City   | 22 | 8  | 2 | 12 | 33 | 53 | -20 | 26  |
| Beenleigh    | 22 | 7  | 4 | 11 | 45 | 52 | -7  | 25  |
| Redlands Utd | 22 | 7  | 3 | 12 | 31 | 48 | -17 | 24  |
| Olympic Utd  | 22 | 7  | 0 | 15 | 34 | 57 | -23 | 21  |
| Acacia Ridge | 22 | 4  | 3 | 15 | 24 | 55 | -31 | 15  |

### ROUND 24 SCORES

|              |        |             |        |
|--------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Redlands Utd | .....4 | Beenleigh   | .....3 |
| Inala City   | .....0 | Souths Utd  | .....3 |
| Acacia Utd   | .....2 | Capalaba    | .....1 |
| Slacks Creek | .....4 | Olympic Utd | .....0 |

Rocklea - Bye





# SOCCER CANBERRA

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By Graham Cooke

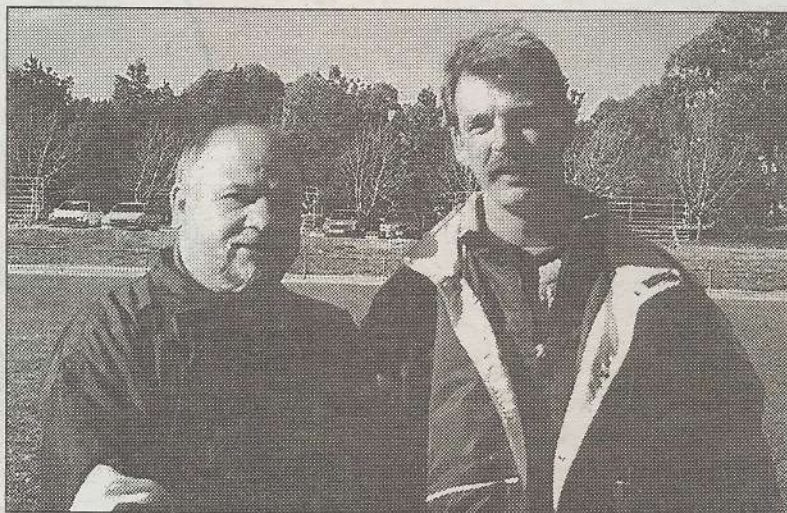
## LEMEZINA TO SHINE EARLY START FOR SUNS AGAIN NEXT YEAR

**T**ony Lemezina, Capital City Suns' brilliant but often wayward striker, has signed a new contract which will keep him with the ACT Premier League club for at least one more season.

The move appears to have completed Lemezina's rehabilitation at the Suns, and reconciliation with the club's president and joint coach, Bill Dojcinowski.

It has been a rocky relationship, which reached its low point last season when Lemezina quit the club without warning and sat out most of the campaign in Queensland.

There were times when an angry Dojcinowski threatened to ensure the former Ericsson Cup star never kicked another ball.



Capital City Suns joint coaches Bill Dojcinowski (l) and Ian Shaw.

However, his attitude softened when Lemezina reappeared for pre-season training and promised to mend his ways.

Since then the partnership has gone from strength to strength.

Lemezina's 16 goals have helped the Suns to top place in the premiership and put him well in the running for the competition's Golden Boot award.

Ian Shaw, Dojcinowski's coaching partner, summed up the striker's renaissance when he said Lemezina is still good enough to play at National League level.

Meanwhile, the Suns have negotiated an arrangement with Ericsson Cup club Northern Spirit which will keep talented young midfielder Shane Lyons playing in Canberra for a few more weekends.

Lyons is trialing with the Spirit and Dojcinowski says he will never stand in the way of one of his players seeking to better himself.

"However, I have been in contact with [Spirit coach] Graham Arnold and it has been agreed that, for the time being at least, Shane will continue to play for us on Sundays while staying in Sydney during the week," he said.

"That means we will only be losing Ilija Prenzovski, who has been recalled by the Canberra Cosmos."

With players like Yuki Onda and Tony Alexsovski on the bench, Suns officials are confident they have the depth to negotiate the last crucial weeks of the season.

**S**occer Canberra want the 2000 ACT Premiership to kick off a fortnight earlier, on March 26, and continue with just one blank weekend, for the Kanga Cup.

The aim is to complete the season by the end of August, well before the start of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games when 11 matches will be played in Canberra.

The tight schedule leaves little flexibility for re-arranged games, and officials will be hoping for a fine winter.

A draft draw has been made on the basis of 10-team, two-round competitions in both divisions of the premiership, even though division two currently has just eight clubs and plays three rounds.

## SNOWY BONUS FOR COSMOS SPONSOR

**C**anberra Cosmos' latest sponsor, the Snowy Mountains Authority, may get a bonus if a joint plan, organised by the Cosmos and Soccer Canberra, comes to fruition.

A pre-season match between the Cosmos and Northern Spirit has already been arranged for Nijong Oval, Cooma, on September 18. The teams will play for the Snowy Cup.

Now Soccer Canberra is canvassing the possibility of playing the ACT Premier League Division

Two grand final in both first and reserve grades as part of the same program.

The proposal has already excited considerable interest in Cooma which has strong soccer traditions going back to the many European migrants who came to the area to work on the Snowy Mountains Scheme in the 1950s and 60s.

It would also be a major incentive for the Cooma club, currently running third in the second division, to reach the grand final, where they would be playing in front of a large and partisan crowd.



Tony Lemezina warms up for a recent game with team-mate Stan Blazeovski

**A** young man of Laotian ancestry and a couple of Croatian-Australians combined to push Capital City Suns closer to their first ACT Minor Premiership with a 3-0 win over Canberra Olympic on Sunday.

Pat Phommaseisy scored twice and veteran Tony Lemezina added the third as the Suns completed their first win over Olympic since entering the premiership last season.

But the greatest influence on the game was that of Luka Ujdur. The midfielder was outstanding, supplying a stream of quality passes, dictating the speed and course of play, setting up moves, and occasionally surging forward to add his own little piece of torture to an harassed Olympic defence.

It was an Ujdur cross which set up the first goal a minute before half time. Tony Lemezina received the ball and wrong-footed the defence before placing a shot out of reach of the diving goalkeeper, Dimitrie Stramacos.

The second was a gem. This time Lemezina played the provider with Phommaseisy leaping high to meet his cross and send the ball zipping into the net.

Then it was Phommaseisy again. His fierce shot was literally too hot for Stramacos to handle, the ball going through the goalkeeper's hands and over the line, evading a despairing lunge from Takis Arvanitis.

There might have been more. Shortly after half time Ujdur set up Tony Alexsovski, who was just wide with his header, and in the closing seconds, Shane Lyons' pass across the face of goal was only just beyond the reach of Lemezina and Stan Blazeovski.

Suns' joint coach Ian Shaw said the early tactics had been to thwart the service to Olympic front men Pino Seminara and Njegosh Popovich.

"We changed that in the second half, with the aim of spreading them wide and getting the ball in behind them. Things just seemed to work for us," he said.

Responding to reports that Phommaseisy and possibly defender Ty Tran may be eligible for the Laotian national team, he said they both deserved to be considered.

For Olympic, without goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou on Futsal international duty, and with midfielder Alex Castro returned to the Canberra Cosmos, the task of breaking into the top four in the last two weeks of the regular season is now that much harder.

Their rivals all picked up points, most significantly Canberra Deakin, which gained a 1-1 draw with second-

placed Monaro.

Monaro were down to 10 men after five minutes when Nick Mathas was sent off for a bad tackle, and were further disrupted by an injury to John Nelson.

It looked all over when they went behind to a Ben Deighan goal, but the Queanbeyan side grabbed a point late in the game when Lazar Simeonov coolly chipped the goalkeeper.

Weston Creek Royals, the competition's score draw specialists, came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Gungahlin Juventus which is staging a mini-revival under new coach Frank Cachia.

Neil Stoddart and George Cattanauch put Juventus in front before Adrian Parragalli and the prolific Steve Lazzari salvaged two points with strikes early in the second half.

Royals coach Jimmy Bland said he was disappointed at some of the refereeing decisions. "There were question marks over two of the goals - one on each side," he said.

For Cachia there was just relief that a seven-game losing streak had been halted.

Belconnen United improved its finals position with a 1-0 win over the University of Canberra, the only goal of the game coming from Aaron Fuller, whose drive hit the underside of the bar before crossing the line.

Finally bottom club Queanbeyan City gave its case for staying in the Premiership next season some weight with a 3-0 win over Burns Club - just its second successful weekend of the season.

### ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Division 1

|                    |   |                        |   |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Belconnen United   | 1 | University of Canberra | 0 |
| Capital City Suns  | 3 | Canberra Olympic       | 0 |
| Gungahlin Juventus | 2 | Weston Creek Royals    | 2 |
| Queanbeyan City    | 3 | Burns Club             | 0 |
| Canberra Deakin    | 1 | Monaro                 | 1 |

|                        | P  | W  | SD | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Capital City Suns      | 16 | 11 | 2  | 0 | 3  | 49 | 20 | 37  |
| Monaro                 | 16 | 9  | 4  | 0 | 3  | 46 | 22 | 35  |
| Belconnen United       | 16 | 10 | 2  | 0 | 4  | 42 | 16 | 34  |
| Weston Creek Royals    | 16 | 7  | 6  | 0 | 3  | 35 | 23 | 33  |
| Canberra Deakin        | 16 | 9  | 2  | 1 | 4  | 33 | 19 | 32  |
| Canberra Olympic       | 16 | 9  | 1  | 1 | 5  | 32 | 18 | 30  |
| Gungahlin Juventus     | 16 | 6  | 2  | 0 | 8  | 27 | 33 | 22  |
| University of Canberra | 16 | 3  | 1  | 0 | 12 | 24 | 44 | 11  |

|                 |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
|-----------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Burns Club      | 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 14 | 59 | 9 |
| Queanbeyan City | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 23 | 71 | 6 |

**Under 23s:** Capital City Suns 4 Canberra Olympic 1, Gungahlin Juventus 0 Weston Creek Royals 1, Canberra Deakin 3 Monaro 2, Belconnen United 3 University of Canberra 3, Queanbeyan City 0 Burns Club 6.

**Points:** University of Canberra 39, Belconnen United 38, Weston Creek Royals 35, Monaro 31, Canberra Olympic 26, Capital City Suns 23, Canberra Deakin 22, Gungahlin Juventus 18, Burns Club 17, Queanbeyan City 0.

**Youth League (Cosmos Division):** Capital City Suns 6 Canberra Olympic 0, Gungahlin Juventus 5 Weston Creek Royals 3, Canberra Deakin 4 Monaro 0, Belconnen United 2 University of Canberra 2, Queanbeyan City 1 Burns Club 2.

**Points:** Belconnen United 47, University of Canberra 40, Gungahlin Juventus 36, Canberra Deakin 29, Weston Creek Royals 28, Capital City Suns 21, Monaro 17, Canberra Olympic 9, Burns Club 11, Queanbeyan City 5.

**Youth League (Rockets Division):** Tuggeranong United 41, Belconnen United 30, Belwest Foxes 23, Southern Spirit 15, Radford 12, Belsouth 6.

|                    | P  | W  | SD | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Defence Academy    | 19 | 15 | 2  | 2 | 0  | 42 | 10 | 51  |
| Belwest Foxes      | 19 | 12 | 3  | 0 | 4  | 55 | 21 | 42  |
| Tuggeranong United | 19 | 9  | 1  | 2 | 7  | 33 | 30 | 31  |
| White Eagles       | 19 | 7  | 4  | 1 | 7  | 38 | 30 | 30  |
| Sabres             | 19 | 8  | 2  | 0 | 9  | 41 | 41 | 28  |
| White Eagles       | 18 | 6  | 3  | 0 | 9  | 34 | 35 | 24  |
| Sabres             | 17 | 2  | 5  | 1 | 9  | 23 | 48 | 17  |
| Defence Academy    | 18 | 1  | 2  | 0 | 15 | 14 | 65 | 7   |

|                    | P  | W  | SD | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| O'Connor Knights   | 19 | 15 | 2  | 2 | 0  | 42 | 10 | 51  |
| Tuggeranong United | 19 | 12 | 3  | 0 | 4  | 55 | 21 | 42  |
| Cooma              | 19 | 9  | 1  | 2 | 7  | 33 | 30 | 31  |
| ANU                | 19 | 7  | 4  | 1 | 7  | 38 | 30 | 30  |
| Belwest Foxes      | 19 | 8  | 2  | 0 | 9  | 41 | 41 | 28  |
| White Eagles       | 18 | 6  | 3  | 0 | 9  | 34 | 35 | 24  |
| Sabres             | 17 | 2  | 5  | 1 | 9  | 23 | 48 | 17  |
| Defence Academy    | 18 | 1  | 2  | 0 | 15 | 14 | 65 | 7   |

**Reserves:** Defence Academy 2 ANU 0, Belwest Foxes 0 O'Connor Knights 1, Tuggeranong United 4 Sabres 1, White Eagles 11 Cooma 0.

**Points:** O'Connor Knights 49, Tuggeranong United 39, ANU 38, Belwest Foxes 33, White Eagles 31, Defence Academy 18, Sabres 14, Cooma 4.

### ACT STATE LEAGUE

**Division 1:** Ginninderra 1 Belconnen United 1, Valley Blues 0 University of Canberra 1, Monaro 3 Southern Spirit 0, Burns Club 4 Canberra City 3.

**Points:** Belconnen United 41, Monaro 34, Burns Club 29, Ginninderra 28, ANU 25, Canberra City 21, University of Canberra 20, Valley Blues 13, Southern Spirit 4.

**Division 2:** Gungahlin Juventus 10 Tuggeranong United 5, Belwest Foxes 2 ANU 5, Burns Club 5 Canberra City 1, Ginninderra 0 Belconnen United 4, Valley Blues 3 University of Canberra 6.

**Points:** Belconnen United 40, ANU 40, Gungahlin Juventus 40, University of Canberra 34, Burns Club 34, Ginninderra 25, Belwest Foxes 24, Canberra City 14, Tuggeranong United 12, Valley Blues 5.

**Division 3:** Harmonie 2 Pyshwick 1, Defence Academy 1 Belconnen United 4, Defence Academy II 0 University of Canberra II 2.

**Points:** Harmonie 48, Valley Blues 33, Weston Creek Royals 31, Belconnen United 31, Pyshwick 30, ANU 27, University of Canberra II 19, Defence Academy I 18, Defence Academy II 17, Canberra City 9, Tuggeranong United 9, University of Canberra 10.

**Division 4:** Defence Academy I Trojans 5, Harmonie 4 Pyshwick 0.

**Points:** Trojans 46, Harmonie 40, ANU II 36, University of Canberra I 35, ANU I 31, Weston Creek Royals 30, University of Canberra II 23, Burns Club 21, Valley Blues 15, Pyshwick 12, Canberra City 5, Defence Academy 4.

**Masters:** ANU 4 St Francis 3.

**Points:** Canberra City 51, Canberra Deakin 48, University of Canberra 44, Kambah Rovers 38, White Eagles 35, Kambah Old Boys 32, ANU 27, St Francis 24, Belconnen United 22, Tuggeranong United 17, Belwest Foxes 15, Valley Blues 2.

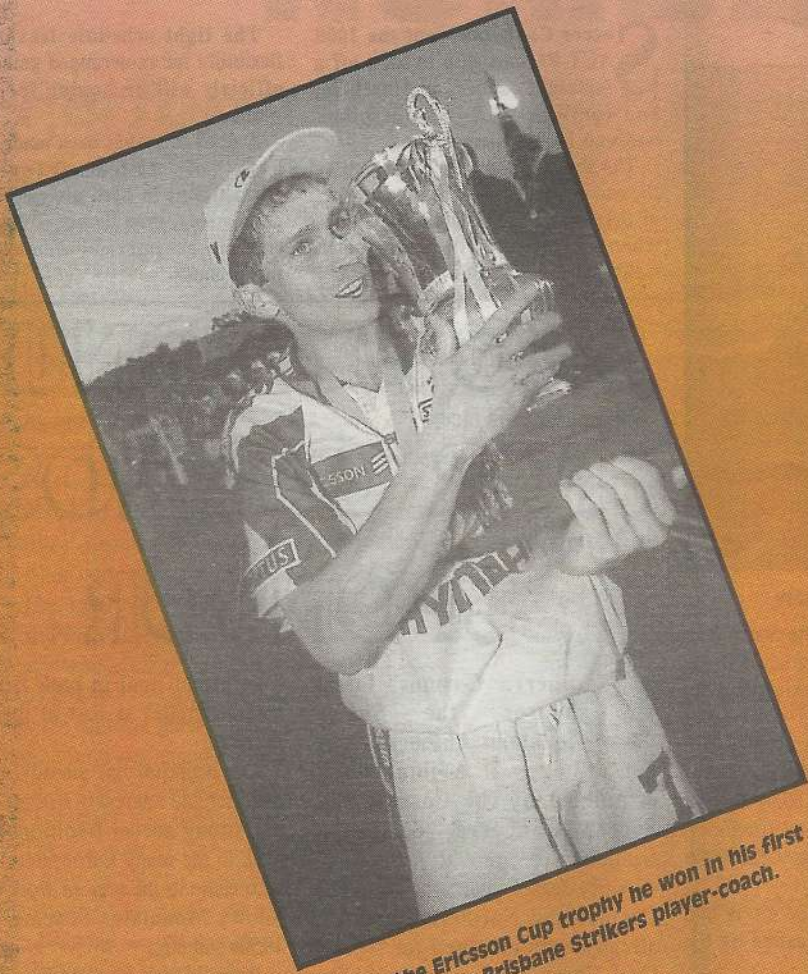
### ACT PREMIER LEAGUE AUGUST 22

|                     |   |                    |       |            |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|-------|------------|
| Canberra Deakin     | v | Burns Club         | ..... | Deakin     |
| Weston Creek Royals | v | Queanbeyan City    | ..... | Woden Park |
| Canberra Olympic    | v | Gungahlin Juventus | ..... | Majura     |
| Uni of Canberra     | v | Capital City Suns  | ..... | University |
| Monaro              | v | Belconnen United   | ..... | Riverside  |

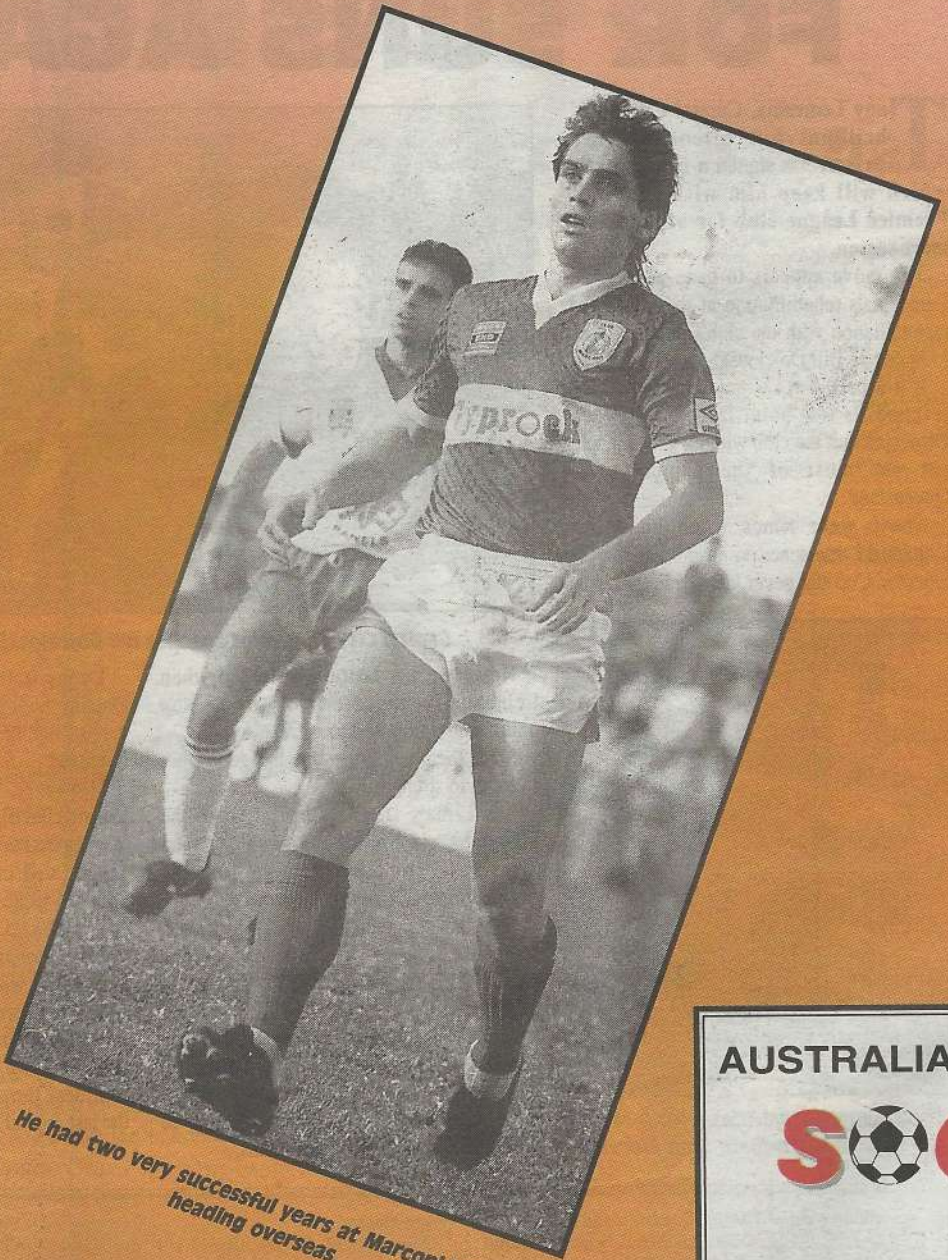
First grade 2pm, Under 23 noon, Youth grade 10am.



# 2002: GOOD



With the Ericsson Cup trophy he won in his first season as Brisbane Strikers player-coach.



He had two very successful years at Marconi before heading overseas.

AUSTRALIAN & B  
**SOCCER**



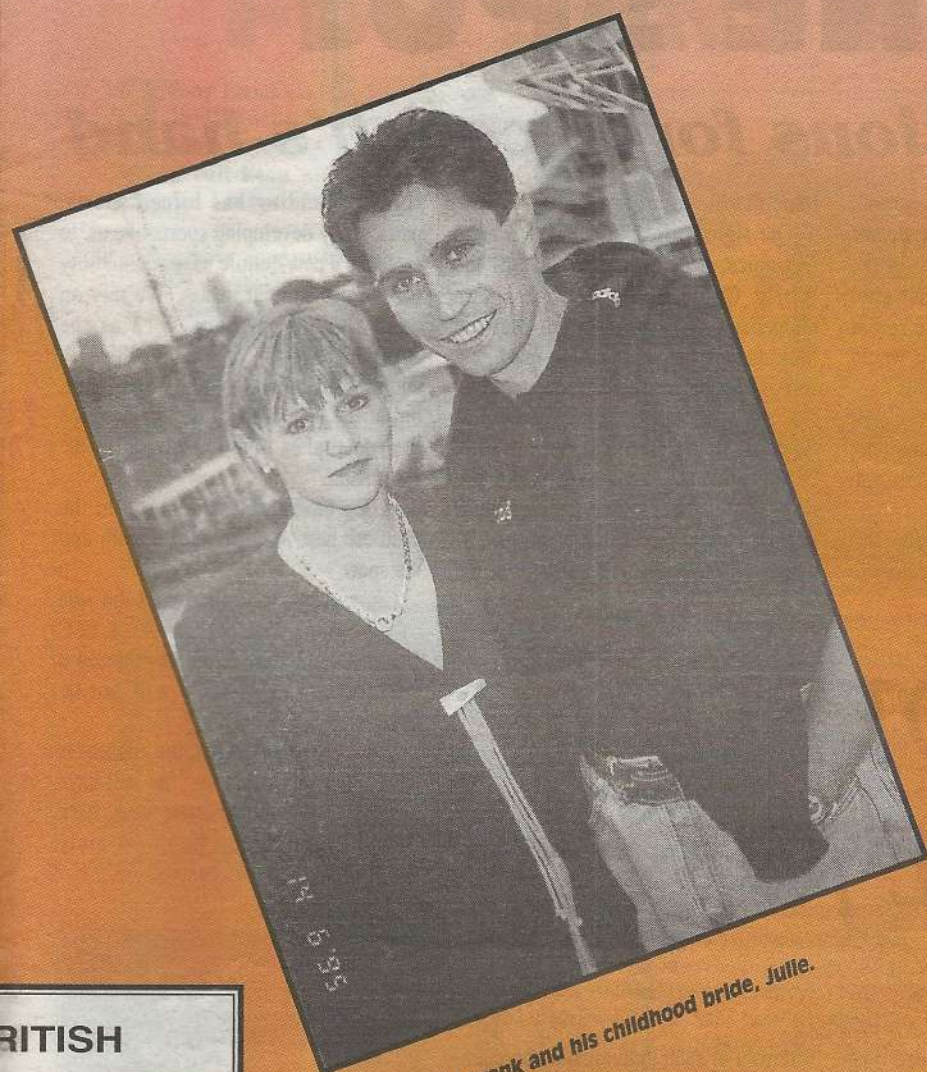
Relaxes with the 1988 NSL trophy.



A proud Soccerroo.



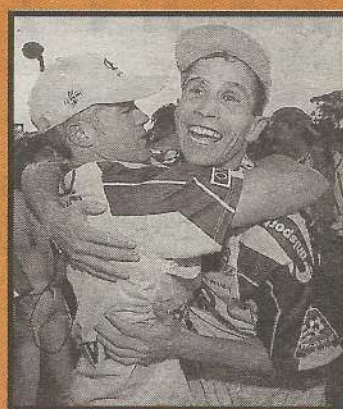
# LUCK, FRANK



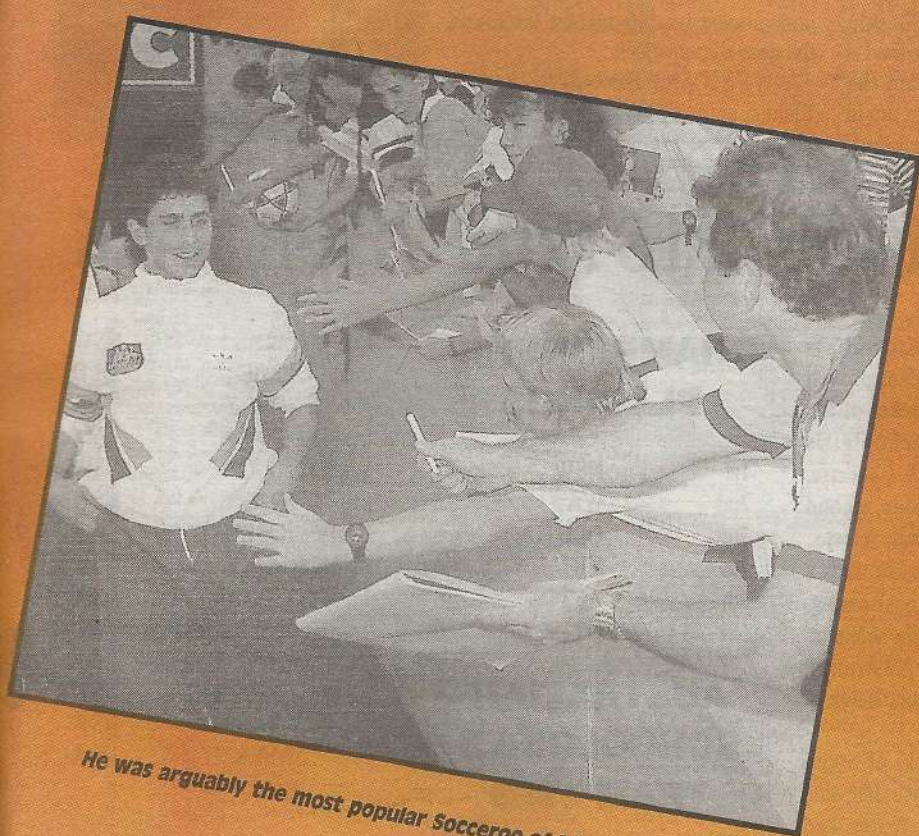
Frank and his childhood bride, Julie.



Celebrates the 1988 NSL Championship with Marconi captain Tony Henderson.



Embraces team-mate Gary Phillips after Brisbane's NSL Grand Final win.



He was arguably the most popular Socceroo of his generation.



A teenage Frank Farina with former Soccer Australia official Charlie Perkins, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and former Socceroo captain Johnny Warren.

BRITISH  
ER  
WEEKLY



# Soccer Woman

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

## BROWN RESIGNS FROM NUMBER ONE SPOT

*Performances below expectations force coach's hand*

**N**ational Coach Greg Brown resigned from the number one position last Friday, ending almost two and a half years in charge of the Matildas.

The news came thirteen months to the day before the kickoff of the 2000 Olympic Games football tournament.

Assistant Coach Chris Tanzey takes over as caretaker National Coach whilst a decision on a permanent replacement is made by the AWSA Board. The National Coach position is expected to be filled within three to four weeks.

The Matildas finished 11th at the World Cup after being heralded as the most improved team in the world going into USA '99. Although the World Cup was the midway point of a master plan aiming for a medal at the 2000 Olympic Games, Australia's performance in the US fell below all expectations.

The position of National Coach of any sport would be a most difficult and demanding role, but the job of coaching the Matildas would have to rate as one of the toughest in Australian sport. For a very young sport which has fast-tracked its elite development to such a sophisticated level in such a short span of time, there comes with it the weight of very high expectations.

Today women's football brings in over one million dollars in Olympic funding per annum from the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Institute of Sport, and the Australian Olympic Committee, all very much results-based. The dollar signs translate directly into expectations of a medal, and should you fall below the mark,

then the pressure falls instantly upon you.

The Matildas have the luxury of full-time centralised training at the AIS, the envy of all footballing nations. Yet for all the obvious benefits of working as a unit day in and day out, there can also emerge a downside to the situation.

Should the balance not be absolutely perfect, even the smallest of problems can compound to become something quite bigger.

The danger signs first surfaced

search of areas requiring improvement.

Upon his departure last week, Brown stated, "I have not been happy in the job for the past few months and after the team's poor showing at the recent World Cup in the USA, I feel it would be better if someone else took over."

"I would like to thank my Assistant Coach Chris Tanzey for his support over the last few years and wish him and the team the best of luck."

Yet during Brown's reign, the Matildas had notched up some fantastic

March 1999.

The signs still remain good for the Olympics, despite the collapse of the World Cup campaign hopes. The consensus of opinion is not that the Matildas are not up to it, but more that some changes need to be made to allow the Matildas to turn things around in time for the Olympic Games.

The athletes must also make the necessary changes within themselves. A solid work ethic and the pursuit of continual improvement must be at the

specific funding has forced sports, particularly developing sports like us, to embrace a new culture of accountability for the decisions it makes. We rely on our valuable partners, such as the Australian Sports Commission, the AIS, and the Australian Olympic Committee, but at the end of the day, the direction the sport takes is ultimately up to the sport itself."

"Greg has made his decision in the absolute best interests of the team and the sport."

Given Tanzey has accepted the role of caretaker, the former ACT ITC Coach would have to be considered a candidate. The position will not be advertised.

Whoever earns the job, the consensus has been reached that the 'bar will have to be raised' over this next year. Like World Cup football, there certainly won't be any second chances.

"I HAVE NOT BEEN  
HAPPY IN THE JOB ..."

during the Algarve Cup in March this year, the Matildas looking less than assured with some shaky displays.

The World Cup followed in similar fashion, the Australians appearing out of sorts, and playing an uncharacteristic brand of football. The walls had finally crashed down.

Exhaustive reviews covering all aspects of the National Team program have since been conducted by the Australian Sports Commission and AIS in collaboration with the AWSA in

results, including a record 14 consecutive matches without defeat. The run commenced with the historic victory over Olympic Games and now World Cup runners-up China back in November 1997, Australia's finest ever result. The wins also included the Matildas' first victory against Sweden, qualification for the World Cup, and the topping of European Championship finalist Italy to take the crown in the 1st Australia Cup. It took a team the calibre of China to end the dream run in

forefront of each individual's approach.

"Now the players have to step up a gear and take responsibility as well," said dual World Cup Team member Anissa Tann-Darby. "It's up to the players to hold their heads high and start putting in a real effort."

The dream is very much alive for 2000 as long as the effort and commitment is at its highest level, and the time is used wisely.

AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher, said, "This age of Olympic-

### NEXT WEEK

Watch this space for the new AIS Scholarship athlete selections and OAP Squad

## ALL-TIME NATIONAL COACHES

YEAR-BY-YEAR LISTING  
(Full 'A' internationals only)

| Year/s    | Coach                 | Matches | W  | D  | L1979 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|----|----|-------|
| 1984      | Jim Selby             | 13      | 5  | 5  | 3     |
| 1981      | Trixie Tagg           | 1       | 1  | 0  | 0     |
| 1986-1987 | Fred Robins           | 8       | 3  | 1  | 4     |
| 1988-1989 | John Doyle            | 7       | 3  | 0  | 4     |
| 1989-1991 | Steve Darby           | 6       | 3  | 2  | 1     |
| 1991-1994 | John Reid             | 5       | 0  | 2  | 3     |
| 1994-1996 | Tom Sermanni          | 32      | 13 | 3  | 16    |
| 1997      | Greg Brown/Jeff Olver | 3       | 0  | 0  | 3     |
| 1997-1999 | Greg Brown            | 34      | 15 | 6  | 13    |
| Totals    |                       | 09      | 43 | 19 | 47    |

## WA SCHOOLGIRLS MAKE THEIR MARK

**W**estern Australia's Schoolgirls Team proved the surprise packet of the recent Australian Schoolgirls Championships at the AIS, Canberra, finishing a most creditable second behind favourites New South Wales.

An exciting combination with a trademark of speed and goalscoring, WA were rewarded with the selection of six players in the Australian Schoolgirls Team at the conclusion of the championship.

New coach Joe Larecki of South Australia will lead the Australian side on a tour of England, Wales and Scotland from 25 November to 23 December this year.

### CHAMPIONSHIP PLACINGS

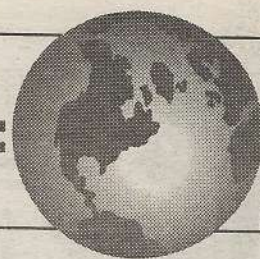
|     |     |        |
|-----|-----|--------|
| 1st | NSW | 15 pts |
| 2nd | WA  | 12     |
| 3rd | QLD | 6      |
| 4th | VIC | 6      |
| 5th | ACT | 6      |
| 6th | NT  | 0      |

### AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS TEAM 1999

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Sarah CHANDLER  | QLD |
| Kathryn COLLINS | NSW |

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Lisa COLLINS    | NSW |
| Prue CORMIE     | QLD |
| Amelia COVEY    | WA  |
| Lisa DEVANNA    | WA  |
| Sarah HUDSON    | NSW |
| Erin HUNTER     | NSW |
| Lindsey JOBLING | WA  |
| Justine KING    | NSW |
| Tracey OLDHAM   | NSW |
| Tanya OXTOBY    | WA  |
| Elizabeth SCOTT | WA  |
| Meegan SHEPHERD | NSW |
| Jessica SYNE    | NSW |
| Mia WALKER      | WA  |





## Redknapp is ideal — Houllier

**G**erard Houllier last week listed his job definition of the perfect Liverpool captain as Anfield's deposed Guv'nor, Paul Ince, waited to hear if he will be charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association.

Ince, who called for his former manager to be sacked after he was sold to Middlesbrough, will be told this week if he faces charges at Lancaster Gate for the newspaper article that shocked all those he left behind at Anfield.



Jamie Redknapp

ship did not fit in with the manager's more democratic approach to how a squad should operate.

The implication was that Houllier believed Ince's influence was too aggressive for some members of the team.

But, in new skipper Jamie Redknapp, Houllier is optimistic that he has found a player who not only leads by example, but is also prepared to act as a crucial bonding agent as Liverpool's new multinational squad acclimatise themselves to the Premiership.

Redknapp has the opportunity to add himself to the long list of great Anfield skippers and his role became even more important last week with the news that his new £8million midfield partner Dietmar Hamann will be out for 10 weeks with an ankle injury.

Yet, Redknapp's first week in competitive football as the latest Red leader at Anfield has already persuaded Houllier he made the right choice, even if the player — quieter and less demonstrative than Ince — may not have been perceived at first to have ideal leadership qualities.

Houllier said: "It is very early to make an assessment of his quality of leadership, but what I like about our first game last Saturday week was that he was not only talking, but he was also letting his football do the talking."

"That happened particularly when Hamann went off injured. We needed someone to quietly reassure the players,

to be very calm and sort it out — and he did that well."

"He was the one to play it simple when others were trying to play complicatedly. His passing was good."

"He was in a holding position in front of the defence and doing the right tackles, cleanly."

"Jamie, along with our vice-captain Robbie Fowler, has to be in charge of the group on the pitch. They must lead by their work-rate and the quality of their teamwork."

Houllier, meanwhile, expects England striker Michael Owen to be back in full training this week.

Owen, whose hamstring injury has kept him sidelined since April, has been away helping the FA present its World Cup bid, but Houllier said: "It won't be long now. It's the end of a very frustrating time for the lad. I expect him to be training with everyone else during the next week."

The Liverpool boss has put one of the Anfield new boys, Sander Westerveld, through a highly-physical training routine to help him grow accustomed to the more combative aspects of the English game.

Just as Sir Alex Ferguson did when Peter Schmeichel first arrived from



Paul Ince

Denmark, the Dutchman is being put through free-kick and corner-kick routines in which the 'opposition' help him discover how tough life for a goalkeeper in the Premier-ship can be, especially when they contest crosses.

## STAN COULD HAVE BEEN A TOFFEE



Stan Collymore and former Liverpool coach Roy Evans: An ill-fated move.

**M**anchester City manager Joe Royle believes he could have helped change the direction of Stan Collymore's troubled career had the striker joined Everton instead of Liverpool.

Royle said he was just hours away from signing the player for a British club record fee of £8 million when he was in charge at Goodison Park five years ago, only to be gagged by Liverpool.

"That move didn't go the way he'd have liked," said Royle.

"Maybe things might have been different had he joined Everton."

Collymore's team-mate Sean Davis is proving to be one of Fulham's best players.

The 19-year-old midfielder, who has come up through the youth ranks at Fulham, has been their star man so far this season and has kept his place despite the arrival of Lee Clark and Stephen Hughes.

Davis said: "It's been a good start for me. I never expected to be in the side but I set up the first goal at Birmingham and then scored at Northampton. I feel really comfortable in the team."

Manager Paul Bracewell said: "Sean has an awful lot of promise."

## TRANSFER OFF

**D**erby County last week called off their move for Argentinian striker Esteban Fuertes.

County boss Jim Smith had hoped to sign Fuertes for around £2 million from Colon De Santa Fe.

But he was told that the 26-year-old is owned jointly by three clubs, one of whom would not authorise his release.

Fuertes, the second-highest scorer in the

Argentinian league last season, joined Derby on their tour of the United States a month ago and had already passed a medical.

Smith said: "I feel more disappointed for him. He is the innocent party and is heartbroken."

"We think the people who brought him over here should have known the ins and outs of this."

## FISH AND CHIPS

**M**iddlesbrough striker Hamilton Ricard has added a new ingredient to his recipe for success as he looks to become the Premiership's top scorer this season.

The 25-year-old Colombia international is not only hungry for goals but for traditional English fish and chips.

Ricard, who scored 15 goals in the Premiership last season, three behind top scorers Dwight Yorke and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, said: "I prefer Colombian food at home and always eat bananas with my soup, but I like fish and chips very much too."



## World Cup hooligans in court

**T**he trial of four Germans accused of beating a French policeman almost to death at last year's World Cup finals will not affect Germany's bid to host the tournament in 2006, German Football Federation (DFB) President Egidius Braun said on Thursday.

"I don't see the slightest connection," Braun said after attending a hearing at the trial which opened last April in the German city of Essen.

"The only thing I see is a positive factor," he added.

"People from all over the world can

see the thoroughness with which violence by German hooligans is being dealt with here."

Four German men aged 23 to 31 face charges of attempted murder and grievous bodily harm for allegedly taking part in the attack of gendarme Daniel Nivel after a World Cup tie between Germany and Yugoslavia on June 21, 1998, in the northern French town of Lens.

The 44-year-old father of two fell into a coma for six weeks and suffered irreversible brain damage. He still has difficulties moving and speaking.

## Pay me what I'm worth

**S**heffield Wednesday could be stirring up trouble by shelving contract talks with highly-rated Brazilian defender Emerson Thome.

The 27-year-old centre half was one of the bright spots of Wednesday's survival struggle last season and Wednesday are said to value him at as much as £7.5million, with Everton, Spurs, Newcastle and Blackburn among his admirers.

Yet, the Yorkshire club have no plans to improve his deal, which has two years to run and pays him around £6,000-a-week — less than half of what partner Des Walker earns.

The former Benfica player insists he will not allow the situation to affect his play. But he said last week: "I hear I am being valued as highly as £7.5m. If I am worth that then perhaps I should get the wages of a £7.5m player."

"The club have not asked me to talk to them. I enjoy being a Wednesday player but I am ambitious and I hope the club is, too. It remains to be seen if my future is here."

Wednesday have already admitted defeat in contract talks with Italian striker Benito Carbone, who rejected the club's final offer. He can leave on a free transfer next June.

Manager Danny Wilson said: "Everyone thinks they're worth a rise — sometimes you don't get one."

Wilson welcomed the news that goalkeeper Kevin Pressman has withdrawn his transfer request.





## 'I almost quit' — Sir Alex



Sir Alex Ferguson: Was ready to quit Man Utd last year.

Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed that a power struggle with his Old Trafford bosses brought him to the brink of resignation less than 12 months before leading his team to the Treble last May.

The manager was so enraged by what he considered disloyalty and unfounded sniping by club chairman Martin Edwards and Manchester United plc chairman Sir Roland Smith that he flew to a confidential meeting with them and demanded: 'Do you want to call it a day?'

The man who lifted the Premiership title, FA Cup and European Cup and was knighted within a year of the stormy meeting was so appalled by the accusation that he was not putting everything into his work that he offered to resign once more.

Ferguson told them: "If you don't recognise that I am the best person to judge which players should be bought by the club, I may as well go now."

New player contracts and assistant manager Brian Kidd's apparent preference for John Hartson over Dwight Yorke were already troubling Ferguson.

Ferguson emphasised: 'Last summer was a lonely and vulnerable time for me at the club — only a manager can know how that feels.'

The moment which might have robbed United of the greatest achievement in their history came when Ferguson was so disturbed about what was happening in his absence that he broke into his summer holidays in France during early July 1998.

According to the revelations, contained in Ferguson's autobiography, *Managing My Life*, the Scot had flown from his Mediterranean family holiday to meet Edwards and Smith at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in London.

Three matters were already troubling him: the feeling that United's board cared more about

Arsenal's Double in 1997-98 had left some believing his own abilities might be on the slide.

The meeting had been abruptly called after Edwards told Ferguson during a phone call about the attempted purchase of Yorke that: 'We are not sure he is the right man'.

Ferguson responded: "What do you mean we don't think he is the right man — who are we?"

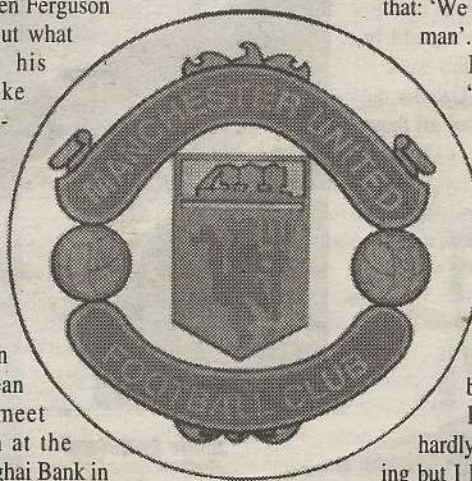
When Edwards told him that he was referring to: 'one or two of the directors and Brian Kidd', Ferguson responded 'Who's the bloody manager?'

Ferguson writes: "I could hardly believe what I was hearing but I let Martin and Sir Roland make their points before asking: 'Do you want to call it a day?'"

He says his hard-line attitude settled the 'farce' but was subsequently caused to reflect that Kidd 'found much less difficulty than I did in gaining improved terms of employment.'

"In the previous January, Sir Roland had promised the club would look after me at the end of the 1997-98 season but we had been top of the Premiership then and flying.

"Arsenal stormed past us on the run-in and gone on to take the Double...now I was being told the redrawing of my contract was still under consideration."



*'Do you want to call it a day?'*

But Edwards' alleged accusation that 'success at Old Trafford had made me a celebrity and that I was not focusing on the job as much as I had done' really hurt.

keeping Kidd than about reassuring him over his own future, Kidd's apparent discussions with the board, which had gone unchecked with Ferguson, and the distinct impression that

## Stabbing at MLS game



A 27-year-old man was in serious condition last week, a day after he was stabbed during D.C. United's victory over the Tampa Bay Mutiny at RFK Stadium.

The stabbing marked the second time this season that violence marred a game

between United and the Mutiny at RFK.

Salvadoran fans in the Washington area have been upset with United management since national hero Raul Diaz Arce was traded at the end of the 1997 season.

## Crowd trouble in Russia

Spartak Moscow were penalised by the Russian Professional Football League again last Tuesday for misbehaviour by their fans.

The league fined the Russian champions 5,000 roubles (\$198.9) after their fans caused trouble during last month's premier division match against Shinnik Yaroslavl.

Six weeks ago, Spartak were ordered to play behind closed doors at the 84,000-seat

Luzhniki Stadium after their fans clashed with riot police in Ramenskoye, a small town about 40 km from Moscow.

Earlier this year, Spartak fans also caused trouble in several other cities across Russia.

The Muscovites host Yugoslavia's Partizan Belgrade in the first leg of the Champions League third qualifying round at Luzhniki on Wednesday.

## Inter Milan chase Seedorf



Clarence Seedorf: Pictured playing for Ajax.

Inter Milan are in talks with Real Madrid in a bid to bring Dutch international midfielder Clarence Seedorf to Italy, Italian press reported last week.

The daily Gazzetta Dello Sport said an Inter official had met with Seedorf's father, who acts as his agent, and was due to meet Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz to discuss a possible deal.

Sanz has repeatedly said that he wants to keep Seedorf at Real but the player seems determined to leave.

Seedorf has been unsettled at Real since the arrival of John Toshack as coach, midway through last season.

"There is no point me being here while John Toshack is the coach" he told the daily AS newspaper.

Seedorf played in Italy, for Sampdoria, before his move to Real three years ago and has frequently stated his desire for a return to Serie A.

As well as Inter, Juventus, Roma and Lazio have all been linked with the 23-year-old, valued at around \$25 million, but it now appears that the big-spending Milan club are the favourites to secure his signature.





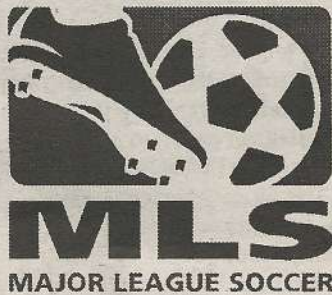
# MILLENNIUM EXIT

## End of an era for Matthaus

**L**othar Matthaus will leave Bayern Munich at the end of December and move to the New York-New Jersey MetroStars, the German club confirmed last week.

Bayern said it had agreed to the 38-year-old player's request to end his contract at the end of this year. Matthaus is to start playing in the U.S. in February, Bayern said in a statement.

"I have much to thank the club for and it is in my interests to leave the club on as successful and positive a note as possible,"



said Matthaus, a member of Bayern for 11 years.

The veteran sweeper said in June he would play for the U.S. club from the beginning of the MLS season in March.

Matthaus, who helped Bayern to win its 15th German title and to reach the European Cup final last season, was voted German Footballer of the Year for a second time in his career in July.

Bayern said it would organize a testimonial match for the 1990 World Cup-winning captain in the near future.



Lothar Matthaus: Was voted German footballer of the year in July.

## RUPERT EYES LEEDS

**R**upert Murdoch, who failed in his bid to buy English soccer giant Manchester United, is reportedly planning to buy 9.9 per cent of up to nine other Premier League clubs instead.

The London-based Mirror newspaper said the Australian-born media baron intended to start his new raid with a £15 million (\$A37 million) bid from his BSkyB television network for a 9.9 per cent stake in Leeds.



Rupert Murdoch

If successful, the station would move to win similar stakes in eight other clubs, thought to include Newcastle, Tottenham, Chelsea, Aston Villa, Leicester, Sunderland and Southampton.

The report came little more than a month after Sky's £623 million (\$A1,537 million) takeover of United was blocked on competition grounds.



Concerns were raised during the United bid that a conflict of interest would arise when England's clubs came to vote on television rights to broadcast the Premier League, most of which are already owned by Sky.

The Mirror said the Leeds bid would entitle Sky to an option on coverage of games involving Leeds, whose star player is Australian Harry Kewell.

## NIGERIA 2000

**N**igeria has named Lagos and Kano as its venues for next year's African Nations Cup, which it is co-hosting with Ghana.

"The stadiums in Lagos and Kano were chosen because they have all facilities to host the tournament," organizing committee spokesman Tijani Yussuf told Reuters last Wednesday.

The Lagos stadium has a 55,000 capacity while Kano can take 16,000 spectators.



Both were among eight used by Nigeria for the World Youth Cup soccer tournament in April.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) took the Nations Cup away from Zimbabwe, saying its facilities were not up to standard.

CAF has fixed August 28 in Lagos for the tournament draw ceremony, part of which will be a friendly between Nigeria and Ghana on the following day.

A total of 16 teams compete for the Nations Cup from January 30 to February 13.



Mia Hamm: Her picture will feature on Wheaties boxes.

# Wheat-Bix women

**F**ive stars of the champion U.S. World Cup women's soccer team will be featured on boxes of Wheaties, cereal-maker General Mills announced last week.

Five special-edition boxes will feature Michelle Akers, Brandi Chastain, Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Briana Scurry. Each player will be on the front cover with selected highlights of her career featured on the back of the box.

This is the first time in Wheaties' 75-year history that a soccer player has been on the orange box.

"Every kid playing sports in America grows up with dreams of one day being on the Wheaties box," Hamm said.

"It is an honor to join the other great athletes who have been on the Wheaties box. This is definitely one of the highlights of my celebration this summer."

Akers said the news "should encourage every little girl out there to follow her dreams."

Jim Murphy, Wheaties marketing manager, said General Mills wanted to do something special to honor the women and their achievements.

"A new era of heroes were born," Murphy said.

General Mills spokesman Gregory Zimprich said the company did not feature the whole team because it could not reach an agreement with the U.S. Soccer Federation, which owns the licensing rights to the team.

Instead, the company reached individual agreements with the five players.



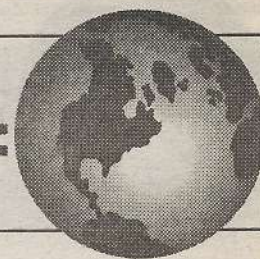
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## BRING BACK HASSLER



Oliver Bierhoff: Pictured playing for Udinese three seasons ago.

**G**erman captain Oliver Bierhoff wants head coach Erich Ribbeck to recall veteran midfielder Thomas Haessler.

"(Mehmet) Scholl and Hassler are players whose technical skills can bring a lot to a team," AC Milan striker Bierhoff told German weekly Sport Bild in an interview last week.

"It would be nice if both of them were there in Finland," he added, referring to Germany's next European championship qualifier on September 4 in Helsinki.

Hassler, 32, earned the last of his 97 caps at last year's World Cup finals in France, where Germany was knocked out by Croatia in the quarterfinals. He has just moved to TSV 1860 Munich after a frustrating season with Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern Munich midfielder Scholl, 28, was one of the few German players to shine at the recent Confederations Cup in Mexico, where the European champions crashed 4-0 to Brazil and 2-0 to the United States.

## NEW STRIKER FOR LEEDS

**F**ormer England under-21 striker Darren Huckerby has left Coventry City to join

English premier league rivals Leeds United.

The forward signed last week for 4.0 million pounds (\$6.44 million), Leeds said.

Coventry manager Gordon Strachan confirmed Huckerby, who has a reputation for scoring spectacular individual goals, had left the Sky Blues.

Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale said

Leeds could have to pay a further million pounds depending on Huckerby's appearances.

He said the club had been following the player over the past year but added that Leeds were still looking for a further striker.

Leeds sold Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to Atletico Madrid earlier this month for 12 million pounds (\$19.46 million) after the player put in a transfer request.



## PAOK SIGN RUSSIAN

**F**ormer Russian international Omari Tetradze, who has made several unsuccessful comebacks since tearing knee ligaments in a World Cup qualifier two years ago, has signed a one-year contract with Greek side PAOK Salonika.

Tetradze had a trial with Italian Serie A side Udinese last month but was not given a contract.

He joined PAOK on a free transfer.



## INTER'S MULTI BILLION

## DRACHMA TRANSFER

**O**lympiakos's Greek international midfielder Grigoris Georgatos has joined Inter Milan, Greek television said last week.

Mega TV quoted Olympiakos officials as saying Inter paid 2.5 billion drachmas (\$8.2 million) to recruit him.

Several top European clubs had been watching Georgatos, who helped Olympiakos to a league and cup double earlier this year.



Grigoris Georgatos: From Athens to Milano.

## DUTCH COACH SACKED AFTER EURO EXIT

**D**ynamo Tbilisi have sacked Dutch coach Johan Boskamp a week after their shock early exit from the European Champions League qualifiers.

"We have decided to part company with him," acting Dynamo president

Roman Shotadze told a news service last week. "From the start (of the season) our goal was to reach the Champions League. We didn't do it, so this is it."

Dynamo, one of the seeded sides in the Champions League second qualify-

ing round, suffered a 2-0 second-leg defeat at Moldova's Zimbru Chisinau two weeks ago, losing 3-2 on aggregate.

Boskamp, 50, was put in charge of the Georgian champions three months

ago, becoming this country's first foreign coach.

The Dutchman is to retain his duties with Georgia's national team. "We're going to honor the rest of his contract," said Valery Cholaria, general secretary of the Georgian soccer federation.

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## CROATIA RETAINS OLD GUARD

**C**roatia coach Miroslav Blazevic kept faith with his World Cup veterans in his squad for tomorrow's (Wednesday) crucial European championship qualifier against Yugoslavia.

Despite a defeat against Ireland and a draw with Macedonia, Blazevic retained his 1998 stalwarts with injured Everton defender Slaven Bilic the only big name absent from the roster.

The list included captain Zvonimir Boban and striker Alen Boksic, who are both uncertain through injuries.

The tie in Belgrade will be the first official match between the two sides and Croatia need to win to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for a third major event in the last four years.

Croatia Zagreb's teenage defender Igor Biscan and clubmate Josip Simic, the striker brother of Inter Milan defender Dario, are the only two newcomers to the squad.



**Zvonimir Boban:** Retained by coach Miroslav Blazevic.



**Alen Boksic:** Selected but under an injury cloud.



**Slaven Bilic:** Unavailable because of injury.

## Intense interest in grudge match

**A** leading Serbian opposition party last Wednesday accused the authorities of buying up nearly half the tickets for tomorrow's (Wednesday) match between Yugoslavia and arch-rivals Croatia to prevent it turning into an anti-government demonstration.

The Democratic Party said in a statement that the Federal Ministry of Sport had bought up 20,000 tickets the match "because they are afraid that fans would show what they think of the politics of (Yugoslav President) Slobodan Milosevic."

The face value of the tickets totalled four million dinars (\$366,800), the party state-

ment said, adding: "Instead of using this money to help Kosovo Serbs who are virtually starving, the regime is staging phoney shows of support for its catastrophic policies."

The daily newspaper Danas quoted Minister for Sport Velizar Djeric as confirming that his ministry had ordered a "cer-

tain quantity of tickets," saying the stadium had a capacity of 55,000.

"Some associations have come to me, asking for tickets — I don't know the exact number at the moment," he said.

The newspaper reported there was intense interest in the match, the first time the two national sides have met since Croatia split

from the old Yugoslav federation in 1991 and the subsequent 1992-95 Bosnian war.

No tickets have been issued to Croatian fans because of fears that old scores might be settled in the stands. The match comes amidst growing street protests across Yugoslavia calling for Milosevic to step down.

## PSG HAIL CESAR



**B**razil defender Cesar arrived at new club Paris St Germain last Wednesday where he will make his debut at home to AJ Auxerre this Friday.

Cesar was signed from Sao Paulo side Portuguesa last month for \$5.3 million, with compatriot and former Brazil captain Rai (pictured) involved in the deal.

Rai, who spent five successful seasons at PSG, has been scouting for the French club since returning home last year.

## Oman-Biyik yearns old turf

**C**ameroon World Cup striker Francois Oman Biyik looks set to play again in France where he had spells with Rennes, Olympique Marseille and RC Lens.

The 33-year-old veteran of three World Cups, who has spent most of the last four years in Mexico, is on trial with second division Chateauroux.

Oman Biyik left Lens in 1995 for Mexico, where he spent two years playing for America before moving on to Merida. He has since had a short spell with Sampdoria in Italy.

The striker, who scored the only goal in Cameroon's upset 1-0 victory over world champions Argentina in the opening match of the 1990 World Cup finals, also played for the side's 1994 and 1998 squads.



**Francis Oman-Biyik:** Veteran of three World Cups.

## TWELVE WEEKS FOR HAMANN

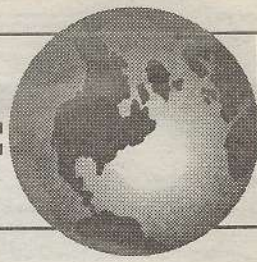
**L**iverpool's German international Dietmar Hamann will be sidelined for three months after undergoing ankle surgery in Germany, the English premier league club said last week.

The eight million pounds (\$12.9 million) off-season signing from Newcastle damaged ligaments in his debut against Sheffield Wednesday on the opening day of the season.



**Dietmar Hamann:** Pictured playing for Newcastle United last season.





## Starring Paulo Di Canio

**P**aolo Di Canio wants to see out his career at West Ham — then head for Hollywood.

The dramatic Italian forward, often accused of using method acting to win free-kicks and penalties, revealed his plan for the future after the Hammers' 1-0 home-leg defeat by Metz in the InterToto Cup final last week.

"I am 31 now and it is unlikely that I will head back to Italy to play before I retire," said the former AC Milan star.

ed to see Di Canio end his playing days in east London, cinema-goers should watch out for the colourful character following in the footsteps of successful film newcomer Vinnie Jones — and, hopefully, doing a lot better on the big screen than Eric Cantona, whose biggest claim to film fame has been a cameo part in the Oscar-winning Elizabeth.

Di Canio has already had one starring role, appearing in a short film

"I have great fun doing photo-shoots but what I enjoy far more is acting. I am almost jealous of Vinnie Jones. He was brilliant in the role he played in Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels — it was perfect for him.

"At the moment I am concentrating on my football but I believe that inside the body of every human there is a part of us that wants to act. Even if it's just one per cent.

"I don't know if I would like to become a full-time actor but it is something I would like to do a bit more of when I finish playing football."

Di Canio has not been associated with long-running shows in the past. He played for Lazio, Juventus, Napoli and Milan before a one-year spell at Celtic and 18 months at Sheffield Wednesday.

After arriving at Upton Park in January as a £1.7million gamble, he has earned a few rave reviews but he will have to turn in a stellar performance in Metz in next week if West Ham are to progress to the first round proper of the UEFA Cup.



Paolo Di Canio

*'I would like to become a full-time actor'*

"I have enjoyed some brilliant times in Serie A. With the wealth of talent in that league, you are facing world-class players almost every week. But I won't finish my career there — I am very happy at Upton Park."

While Hammers fans will be delight-

made for a young directors' festival in Rome last European summer.

He said: "I played a man who was a little bit wild and liked to live life to the full. It was a great experience and something I really enjoyed, even if it only lasted 12 minutes.

## ARSENAL CUT RED TAPE FOR DAVOR SUKER



Davor Suker

**D**avor Suker has been given the all-clear to play for Arsenal after the club received a work permit for the Croatian striker.

But he will not be seen in an Arsenal shirt until next week because of international commitments as Croatia attempt to build on their success in finishing third in the World Cup by qualifying for next year's Euro 2000 finals.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger confirmed last week that 31-year-old Suker, a £3.5m signing from Real Madrid, had been given clearance to start his Highbury career but he will not be available until they play Bradford City at home on August 25.

Wenger said: "We have the permit but Davor is with Croatia because they have two group matches in the Euro 2000 programme against Yugoslavia and Malta.

"They will be staged next Wednesday



(tomorrow) and Saturday, so there is no chance he can be involved against Manchester United on Sunday.

"He is also short of match fitness, so the international matches can work for us and for him."

### Rivaldo: 'I want more'

**B**razilian forward Rivaldo last week demanded a new deal with Barcelona despite being paid £2million-a-year tax free.

His demand follows the news that Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson would like to take him to Old Trafford.

Rivaldo said: "Football revalues itself day by day. Manchester is a great team, but I'm happy at Barca. 'I would only leave if I had personal problems here.'

### A Real crisis for Madrid

**R**eal Madrid coach John Toshack is facing a mini-crisis before the start of the new campaign after his side suffered a dispiriting 3-0 defeat to Celta Vigo in a pre-season friendly.

The Welsh coach, who has overseen the expensive rebuilding of the Madrid club, watched in dismay as his new-look team — minus Nicolas Anelka, who is still short of match fitness — were taken apart by their Galician hosts.

With new signing Steve McManaman a peripheral figure on the right wing, strikers Fernando Morientes and Raul Gonzalez woefully out of touch and the defence revealing all its old frailties, Real looked to have made little or no progress over the summer.

The Real fans in the crowd left him in no

doubt as to what they think of his selection policy, which has seen Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf consigned to the substitutes' bench in expectation of a move away from the Bernabeu.

"Seedorf yes! Toshack no!" chanted the crowd at Celta's Balaidos stadium as Real stumbled in much the same way that saw them beaten there 5-1 in the league last season.

"Celta were much better than us," Toshack was forced to admit after the game. "But to lose in pre-season is not such a bad thing. It will serve to wake us up a bit. Winning all the time is not necessarily good for the team."

The problem for Toshack is that winning all the time is exactly what Real fans want to see.



Steve McManaman

### An Indian in England

**B**ury are set to make Baichung Bhutia the first Indian footballer to play in the English game after agreeing terms with the 22-year-old striker.

Dubbed 'The star of Asia', Bhutia has scored 21 goals in 31 games for India.

He joins Bury after unsuccessful trials at Aston Villa and Fulham.





# FIFA

## World Rankings



|     |                   |      |                  |      |                    |
|-----|-------------------|------|------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1   | Brazil            | 69   | Algeria          | 137= | Hong Kong          |
| 2   | France            | 70=  | Nigeria          | 137= | Solomon Islands    |
| 3   | Czech Republic    | 70=  | Northern Ireland | 139  | Swaziland          |
| 4   | Italy             | 72   | Honduras         | 140= | Ethiopia           |
| 5   | Germany           | 73   | Mali             | 140= | Panama             |
| 6=  | Argentina         | 74   | Gabon            | 142  | Sri Lanka          |
| 6=  | Croatia           | 75   | Zimbabwe         | 143  | Gambia             |
| 8   | Spain             | 76   | Guatemala        | 144  | Saint Lucia        |
| 9   | Romania           | 77   | Burkina Faso     | 145= | Dominica           |
| 10  | Norway            | 78   | Thailand         | 145= | San Marino         |
| 11  | Mexico            | 79   | Togo             | 147= | Antigua & Barbuda  |
| 12  | Portugal          | 80=  | Cuba             | 147= | Lesotho            |
| 13  | Netherlands       | 80=  | Qatar            | 149  | Bangladesh         |
| 14  | England           | 82   | Guinea           | 150  | Yemen              |
| 15  | Sweden            | 83   | Namibia          | 151  | Niger              |
| 16  | Paraguay          | 84   | Wales            | 152  | Mauritania         |
| 17  | Denmark           | 85   | Senegal          | 153  | Dominican Rep.     |
| 18  | Colombia          | 86   | Estonia          | 154  | Cayman Islands     |
| 19  | Morocco           | 86=  | Oman             | 155  | Libya              |
| 20  | Austria           | 86=  | Uzbekistan       | 156  | Andorra            |
| 21  | Yugoslavia        | 89   | Armenia          | 157  | Kyrgyzstan         |
| 22  | Chile             | 90=  | Bosnia-Herz.     | 158  | Laos               |
| 23  | Slovakia          | 90=  | El Salvador      | 159  | Surinam            |
| 24  | Ukraine           | 92   | Belarus          | 160  | Botswana           |
| 25  | Israel            | 93   | Mozambique       | 161  | Maldives           |
| 26  | Poland            | 94   | Albania          | 162  | Korea              |
| 27  | Russia            | 95   | Liberia          | 163  | Nepal              |
| 28  | Tunisia           | 96   | Congo            | 164  | Bermuda            |
| 29  | South Africa      | 97   | Canada           | 165  | Netherlands Ant.   |
| 30  | United States     | 98   | Moldova          | 166  | British Virgin Is. |
| 31  | Scotland          | 99   | Azerbaijan       | 167  | Guinea-Bissau      |
| 32  | Zambia            | 100  | Kenya            | 168  | Guyana             |
| 33  | Belgium           | 101  | Syria            | 169  | Chinese Taipei     |
| 34  | Bulgaria          | 102  | New Zealand      | 170  | Cape Verde Is.     |
| 35  | Greece            | 103  | Singapore        | 171  | Macao              |
| 36  | Ireland           | 104  | Faroe Islands    | 172  | Eritrea            |
| 37  | Korea Republic    | 105  | Iraq             | 173  | Tonga              |
| 38  | Egypt             | 106  | Malawi           | 174  | Samoa              |
| 38  | Turkey            | 107  | Haiti            | 175  | Cambodia           |
| 40  | Saudi Arabia      | 108  | Uganda           | 176  | Papua NG           |
| 41  | Peru              | 108  | Venezuela        | 177= | Cook Islands       |
| 42  | Uruguay           | 110  | Lebanon          | 177= | Rwanda             |
| 43  | Jamaica           | 111  | Indonesia        | 179  | Pakistan           |
| 44  | Japan             | 112  | Vietnam          | 180  | Philippines        |
| 45  | Cote d' Ivoire    | 113= | Barbados         | 181  | Vanuatu            |
| 46  | Ghana             | 113= | India            | 182  | Puerto Rico        |
| 46  | Iceland           | 115  | Sierra Leone     | 183  | Chad               |
| 48  | Hungary           | 116  | Kazakhstan       | 184  | Seychelles         |
| 49  | Trinidad & Tobago | 117  | Sudan            | 185  | Aruba              |
| 50  | Iran              | 118= | Malaysia         | 186= | Bahamas            |
| 51= | Cameroon          | 118= | Mauritius        | 186= | Belize             |
| 51= | Lithuania         | 120= | Bahrain          | 188= | Brunei             |
| 53  | Bolivia           | 120= | Grenada          |      | Darussalam         |
| 54  | Switzerland       | 122  | Malta            | 188= | Nicaragua          |
| 55  | Kuwait            | 123  | Tanzania         | 190  | US Virgin Islands  |
| 56  | Ecuador           | 124  | Turkmenistan     | 191  | Palestine          |
| 57  | Angola            | 125  | Fiji             | 192  | Turks & Caicos Is. |
| 58  | China PR          | 126  | Luxembourg       | 193  | Equatorial Guinea  |
| 59  | Congo DR (Zaire)  | 127  | Myanmar          | 194  | Djibouti           |
| 59  | Finland           | 128  | Tajikistan       | 194  | Sao Tome e Pr.     |
| 61  | AUSTRALIA         | 129  | Tahiti           | 196  | Somalia            |
| 62  | Slovenia          | 130  | Benin            | 197  | Central African R. |
| 63  | Georgia           | 131  | Jordan           | 198= | Mongolia           |
| 64  | Latvia            | 132  | Madagascar       | 198= | American Samoa     |
| 65  | UAE               | 133  | Liechtenstein    | 200  | Guam               |
| 66  | FYR Macedonia     | 134= | Burundi          | 201= | Anguilla           |
| 67  | Cyprus            | 134= | St Kitts & Nevis | 201= | Montserrat         |
| 68  | Costa Rica        | 136  | St Vincent/Gren  |      |                    |

**Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

# 'PATHETIC JOURNALISM'

*Robson slams press over Gazza treatment*

The tabloids appear to be up to their old tricks. Before Paul Gascoigne was fit, they were leading the calls for him to be included in the England national side.

Yet once he had started to prove his fitness, they were smashing him back down again.

Last Wednesday, Bryan Robson refuted claims made in a number of the tabloids that Gazza took part in an all night drinking session at a celebrity premiere of Hugh Grant's new movie Mickey Blue Eyes.

Robson said: "It's pathetic journalism. The whole scenario is to build up the top stars then knock them down. It becomes a see-saw situation.

Perhaps because we said Gazza was fit and well, they saw it as time to have another go at him.

"The truth is that Gazza's weight is good, his training is good, and he has



done the business in the first two games. He played consistently well all the way through the game on Tuesday."

The Sun reported that Gazza attended the party, which finished at 1am and had to be helped back into his car by England colleague David Seaman.

That means that he would have had no more than 2 hours of drinking time available — hardly enough time for a drinking binge.

The 32-year-old midfielder also appeared at the Middlesbrough training ground early the next morning, over 250 miles away despite having been given the day off.



Paul Gascoigne

Kevin Keegan has said that he will investigate the claims before deciding upon Gascoigne's international future.



Robert Di Matteo

## OUT FOR FIVE WEEKS

Roberto Di Matteo is likely to be out of action for up to five weeks after undergoing surgery on his troublesome ankle injury.

The Italian midfielder injured the ankle last season and despite hopes of him fully recovering in pre-season he was forced to go under the surgeon's knife last Wednesday.



He did come on as a substitute for the last five minutes during

Chelsea's 4-0 win over Sunderland 10 days ago but failed to shake off the problem.

The expected arrival of 26-year-old Gabriele Ambrosotti from Vicenza could therefore prove timely as Luca Vialli seeks to add cover in all positions for the Champions' League campaign before the transfer 'deadline' at the end of August.

## International call-up for Gunners keeper

Arsenal's reserve goalkeeper Alex Manninger is one of five uncapped players named in Austrian coach Otto Baric's squad for tomorrow's (Wednesday) friendly against Sweden in Malmo.

Manninger, 22, played an important part in Arsenal's double success in 1998 when playing seven Premiership games including a key spell between January and March when David Seaman was injured.

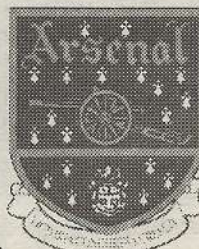
However, he has not been able to break into the Arsenal team on a

permanent basis due to the continued form of the England number one, who is currently sidelined with a calf injury.

Austria, who qualified for the World Cup where they were remembered for

dull football combined with late goals, have had a terrible time in Euro 2000 qualifying, losing 0-9 in Spain and 0-5 in Israel.

Manninger sits alongside the experienced Michael Konsel of AS Roma as the only two goalkeepers in the squad.



## Mandela says no to 2006

England received a boost for their 2006 World Cup bid today after it emerged that Nelson Mandela will not be playing an active role in promoting South Africa's bid.

The former president was expected to take a leading role in lobbying FIFA members over his country's claim to host the competition, but he has now decided to take a back seat.

Officials from the South African Football Association had hoped he would agree to travel the globe supporting the bid after his retirement in June.





## PREMIER LEAGUE

|             |   |   |               |
|-------------|---|---|---------------|
| Bradford    | 1 | 1 | Sheff Wed     |
| Derby       | 1 | 3 | Middlesbrough |
| Leicester   | 2 | 2 | Chelsea       |
| Liverpool   | 0 | 1 | Watford       |
| Man Utd     | 2 | 0 | Leeds         |
| Sunderland  | 0 | 0 | Arsenal       |
| Tottenham   | 3 | 2 | Everton       |
| Wimbledon   | 1 | 1 | Coventry      |
| Southampton | 4 | 2 | Newcastle     |

## Table

|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man Utd     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| Arsenal     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Aston V     | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Middlesbro  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Tottenham   | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Southampton | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Chelsea     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Leeds Utd   | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Bradford    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Wimbledon   | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Leicester   | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Sunderland  | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| West Ham    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Liverpool   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Watford     | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Coventry    | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Derby Cnty  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Everton     | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| Sheff Wed   | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Newcastle   | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 0 |

## LEADING SCORERS

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 | Dwight Yorke (Manchester Und).  |
| 3 | Michael Bridges (Leeds United)  |
|   | Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough) |
|   | Carl Cort (Wimbledon)           |
| 2 | Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal)       |
|   | Julian Joachim (Aston Villa)    |
|   | Gustavo Poyet (Chelsea)         |
|   | Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)     |
|   | David Unsworth (Everton)        |
|   | Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City)    |
|   | Christian Ziege (Middlesbrough) |
|   | Tim Sherwood (Tottenham)        |
|   | Steffen Iversen (Tottenham)     |

## ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

|               |   |   |                |
|---------------|---|---|----------------|
| Barnsley      | 2 | 3 | Crystal Palace |
| Bolton        | 2 | 1 | QPR            |
| Crewe         | P | P | Charlton       |
| Fulham        | 0 | 0 | Man City       |
| Norwich       | 0 | 1 | Birmingham     |
| Nottm Forest  | 2 | 1 | Grimsby        |
| Port Vale     | 1 | 2 | West Brom      |
| Sheff Utd     | 1 | 1 | Walsall        |
| tockport      | 2 | 1 | Tranmere       |
| Wolverhampton | 1 | 1 | Portsmouth     |
| Huddersfield  | 3 | 2 | Blackburn      |
| Swindon       | 1 | 4 | Ipswich        |

## Standings

|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ipswich     | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| Stockport   | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Portsmouth  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Crystal Pal | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Birmingham  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| West Brom   | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Bolton      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Wolverhmpn  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Charlton    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| QPR         | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Huddersfld  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Nott Forest | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Fulham      | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Walsall     | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Crewe       | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Swindon     | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Blackburn   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Norwich   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Port Vale | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Tranmere  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Man Cty   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Sheff Utd | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Grimsby   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Barnsley  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 0 |

## ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

|              |   |   |                |
|--------------|---|---|----------------|
| Brentford    | 2 | 0 | Oldham         |
| Bristol City | 3 | 1 | Bournemouth    |
| Burnley      | 2 | 1 | Chesterfield   |
| Cambridge    | 3 | 1 | Reading        |
| Colchester   | 0 | 3 | Notts County   |
| Gillingham   | 0 | 1 | Bristol Rovers |
| Luton        | 3 | 2 | Blackpool      |
| Millwall     | 3 | 3 | Wigan          |
| Oxford       | 2 | 3 | Cardiff        |
| Preston      | 2 | 1 | Stoke          |
| Scunthorpe   | 0 | 1 | Wycombe        |
| Wrexham      | 1 | 0 | Bury           |

## Table

|              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Preston      | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Wigan        | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Notts Cnty   | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Brentford    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Cardiff      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Burnley      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Luton        | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Wycombe      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Bristol Rov  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Bristol City | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Cambridge    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Blackpool    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Oxford       | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Bury         | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Wrexham      | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Bournemouth  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Reading      | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Colchester   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Millwall     | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Stoke        | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Chesterfld   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Gillingham   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Oldham       | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Scunthorpe   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

## ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

|               |   |   |              |
|---------------|---|---|--------------|
| Barnet        | 2 | 2 | Exeter       |
| Darlington    | 3 | 0 | Macclesfield |
| Hartlepool    | 0 | 2 | Halifax      |
| Hull City     | 1 | 1 | Lincoln      |
| Leyton Orient | 1 | 2 | Brighton     |
| Mansfield     | 0 | 1 | Cheltenham   |
| Northampton   | 0 | 1 | Peterborough |
| Plymouth      | 0 | 0 | Shrewsbury   |
| Rochdale      | 2 | 0 | Southend     |
| Rotherham     | 4 | 0 | Chester      |
| Swansea       | 1 | 0 | Carlisle     |
| Torquay       | 0 | 0 | York         |

## Table

|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brighton    | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| Darlington  | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Rochdale    | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Peterboro   | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Barnet      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Exeter      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Lincoln     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Torquay     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| York        | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Rotherham   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Halifax     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Carlisle    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Swansea     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Southend    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Cheltenham  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Macclesfld  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Hull        | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Plymouth    | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Shrewsbury  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Ley Orient  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Northampton | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Hartlepool  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Chester     | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Mansfield   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

## SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

|              |   |   |            |
|--------------|---|---|------------|
| Aberdeen     | 0 | 2 | Dundee     |
| Dundee Utd   | 2 | 1 | Celtic     |
| Hibernian    | 1 | 1 | Hearts     |
| St Johnstone | 2 | 0 | Kilmarnock |
| Rangers      | 4 | 0 | Motherwell |

## Table

|            |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| Rangers    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 9 |
| Celtic     | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9  | 2 | 6 |
| Hibernian  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7  | 6 | 5 |
| Dundee Utd | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6  | 4 | 4 |
| Hearts     | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5  | 6 | 4 |
| Dundee     | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6  | 6 | 3 |
| Kilmarnock | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 4 | 3 |
| St Johnst  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 7 | 3 |
| Motherwell | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4  | 4 | 2 |
| Aberdeen   | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0  | 9 | 0 |

## LEADING SCORERS

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 4 | Michael Mols (Rangers)     |
| 3 | Mark Viduka (Celtic)       |
|   | Claudio Reyna (Rangers)    |
|   | Dirk Lehmann (Hibernian)   |
|   | Willie Falconer (Dundee)   |
| 2 | Henrik Larsson (Celtic)    |
|   | Gary Hay (Kilmarnock)      |
|   | Lee McCulloch (Motherwell) |
|   | Franck Sauzee (Hibernian)  |
|   | Gary McSwegan (Hearts)     |

## SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

|              |   |   |             |
|--------------|---|---|-------------|
| Airdrie      | 2 | 2 | Dunfermline |
| Ayr          | 1 | 2 | Livingston  |
| Inverness CT | 2 | 3 | Falkirk G   |
| Morton       | 0 | 0 | Clydebank   |
| Raith        | 0 | 6 | St Mirren   |

## Table

|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Mirren   | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| Dunfermline | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Airdrie     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Greenock    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Livingston  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Falkirk     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Ayr         | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Clydebank   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Raith       | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Inverness   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 |

## SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

|               |   |   |                |
|---------------|---|---|----------------|
| Alloa         | 1 | 0 | Partick        |
| Arbroath      | 2 | 1 | Clyde          |
| Hamilton      | 0 | 3 | Queen of South |
| Stenhousemuir | 2 | 1 | Stirling       |
| Stranraer     | 0 | 0 | Ross County    |

## Table

|              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arbroath     | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Stenhouse    | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Alloa        | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Ross County  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Queen of Sth | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Stranraer    | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Stirling     | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Clyde        | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Partick      | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Hamilton     | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

## SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

|               |   |   |             |
|---------------|---|---|-------------|
| Berwick       | 1 | 1 | Albion      |
| Brechin       | 1 | 2 | Queens Park |
| Cowdenbeath   | 0 | 3 | Forfar      |
| Dumbarton     | 3 | 4 | Montrose    |
| East Stirling | 0 | 2 | East Fife   |

## Table

|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Queen's Pk  | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Forfar      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Berwick     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Dumbarton   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| East Fife   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Montrose    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Cowdenbeath | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Brechin     | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Albion      | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

E Stirling

2 0 0 2 1 4 0

## FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

(Played Aug. 14)

|                    |   |             |   |
|--------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Paris St-Germain   | 2 | Metz        | 1 |
| AJ Auxerre         | 3 | Sedan       | 1 |
| Nancy              | 3 | Le Havre    | 0 |
| Girondins Bordeaux | 4 | Troyes      | 0 |
| Monaco             | 4 | Bastia      | 0 |
| Nantes             | 0 | RC Lens     | 1 |
| Strasbourg         | 2 | Montpellier | 0 |

## Table

|                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paris St-Germain    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| Girondins Bordeaux  | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| Nantes              | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| RC Lens             | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| AJ Auxerre          | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Strasbourg          | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Monaco              | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Olympique Marseille | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Metz                | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Montpellier         | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Nancy               | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Olympique Lyon      | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Bastia              | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Sedan               | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| Saint-Etienne       | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Rennes              | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Le Havre            | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Troyes              | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 |

## GERMAN FIRST DIVISION



# UNWANTED HAT-TRICK

**Ruud Gullit has kick-off the Premier League season with three straight losses. Is he on his way out?**

**T**he Dutchman with the dreadlocks might be branded cold, arrogant, intransigent and aloof. But Ruud Gullit is not a fool.

The dreaded vote of confidence — English football's traditional death knell for a manager — has been delivered with typical fervour by Newcastle chief executive Freddie Fletcher after just three defeats.

But Gullit knows the Newcastle board will have no desire to force his exit until at least the multi-million pound compensation claim for unfair dismissal being brought by former manager Kenny Dalglish has been settled in the High Court in October.

Equally, he is aware of the massive power-base held by Newcastle's infamous Toon Army. In common with his predecessor Dalglish, Gullit has failed palpably to warm himself to their huge support.

Suspicion pervades the air on Tyneside that the Dutchman has not committed himself fully to the club.

The fans are disenchanted by repeated tales of dressing room rifts — particularly



**Ruud Gullit: Under pressure**

with the still highly favoured Geordie captain Alan Shearer — and the influx of foreign players unconditioned to the unique pulse and heartbeat of the North East.

A heavy, siege-like atmosphere has developed, with Gullit slapping a ban on the players talking to the Press without his permission.

Paranoia is so deeply entrenched that it seems even the club's official press officer has been warned off the training headquarters.

An added pressure on the beleaguered Gullit is the desire of his young wife Estelle for him to spend more time at home with her in Amsterdam.

Tough games follow against Wimbledon and fierce North East rivals Sunderland. The Bank Holiday at the end of the month involves a daunting trip to Manchester United.

Gullit tries his best to portray his customary cool. But his entire body language betrays the turmoil coursing within him.

"Do you feel like a rabbit caught in the headlights?" I ask.

"I know what you are coming for," he responds. "I am prepared for it. If we win a game it will be all over. If we don't win, the situation will get worse. It comes with my job, it comes with who I am."



**Alan Shearer: Highly favoured by the fans at Newcastle**

"A manager is only as good as his last game. All I know is I have trophies in my bag. I have nothing to prove to anyone. Sometimes there is a period in your life when things are not working in the way

you want.

"Sometimes it is hard to get a grip on it because I am the manager and I can't do it myself on the pitch. I can only point out where the mistakes are."

"I have everything in my life that I want, so do I have to bother about this? Why should I? I know I love this job, I love football. But this is outside football."

"What I love is the game. Why should I bother about it? It is an experience in my life. It is not always going to be sunshine."

"That is normal. Therefore I feel OK. I love this work and I always take responsibility for everything I do. I have to think about now. I have to be hard and tough on myself and the team."

"We have to get out of this situation. But it is only two games. It is a big game at Southampton but I have nothing to fear."

"I have had setbacks in my life before. I was rejected by AC Milan and went to Sampdoria and won a trophy. There are always goals in life to be achieved."

# BAYERN'S LAST MINUTE GOAL

*German season kicks off*

**A** last-minute goal by Brazilian striker Giovane Elber salvaged a 2-2 draw for Bayern Munich as they started the defence of their German title last Saturday.

Elber, who came on as a substitute after six months on the sidelines with a knee injury, headed home the game winner in the dying moments against Hamburg SV to save last season's European Cup finalists from defeat.

Hamburg, up 2-1 thanks to newcomer Roy Praeger who netted a goal eight minutes from time, came close to capturing only its second win at Bayern after a memorable 4-3 victory in 1982.

The Munich club opened the scoring in the 33rd minute with a header by defender Markus Babel off a Michael Tarnat corner, but two minutes later, the visitors tied the score off a goal by Croatian midfielder Nico Kovac.

Bayern were missing two key players in goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and playmaker Stefan Effenberg, both injured.

They were also without their two major signings, Brazilian midfielder Paulo Sergio and 17-year-old Paraguayan striker Roque Santa Cruz.

Sergio is recovering from groin surgery while Santa Cruz, described as an "extraordinary talent" by coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, isn't eligible to play until next week.

"If you had asked me before the match, I would have told you that a 2-2 draw would not be a good result," Hitzfeld said. "We desperately wanted to win. In the end we needed that Elber goal in injury time to get a draw."



**Markus Babel: Opened the scoring for Bayern**

Hamburg coach Frank Pagelsdorf was both satisfied and frustrated.

"A 2-2 draw at Bayern is obviously a good result," he said. "But coming so close to victory is infuriating. Bayern never gave up and I think they deserved to pick a point."

In another season opener, Kaiserslautern beat Borussia Dortmund 1-0 thanks to a goal from close range by German international striker Olaf Marschall in the 67th minute.

Dortmund were reduced to 10 men when Bosnian midfielder Sergei Barbarez was sent off for shouting at the referee in the 76th minute.

In other action, Second Division champions Arminia Bielefeld made a promising start, fighting back from a goal down for a 1-1 draw at Schalke 04.

The 1997 UEFA Cup champions went ahead through Czech midfielder Jiri Nemec in the 45th minute, but former German international Bruno Labbadia — last season's Second Division top scorer — equalized for Bielefeld in the 67th minute.

Modest Unterhaching endured a difficult Bundesliga debut, falling 3-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Congolese Rolf Guie-Mien, Norway's Jan-Age Fjortoft and Togolese Bachirou Salou scored for Eintracht, who top the standings on goal difference.

Last season's runners-up, Bayer Leverkusen, down to 10 men for most of the game, hung on for a point in a scoreless draw at MSV Duisburg on Friday.

Leverkusen entertain Bayern this weekend.

## Basler rejects contract

**B**ayern Munich star Mario Basler last week rejected a new contract offer from the German champion.

The 30-year-old former German international was offered a deal that extended through 2002, but has decided he wants to leave, said Bayern general manager Uli Hoeness.

"The door remains open if Mario wants to change his mind, but we will not be making an increased offer," Hoeness said.

Basler feels he does not get the respect he deserves at Bayern and wants pay parity with star midfielder Stefan Effenberg.







# PHYSIO RESIGNS OVER OWEN FITNESS FIASCO

## *Injury got worse not better*

**L**iverpool physio Mark Leather and his assistant Neil Hough have resigned in the wake of the Michael Owen fitness fiasco.

Leather has been under fire since the end of last season following a disagreement over the correct treatment for Owen's injury.

The England man damaged his hamstring at Elland Road on April 12, and has not pulled on the red jersey since.

At the time, Gerard Houllier contemplated turning to Danish



reflexologist Torben Kristiansen, who claimed that he could have the England striker back in action in a matter of weeks.

However, Leather persuaded the manager to leave matters in his hands, and even took the 19-year-old on holiday with him so as treatment could continue.

As the injury prognosis got worse not better, it seemed inevitable that something would have to give.

Hough is understood to have taken up a post at Old Trafford.



Michael Owen

# MIDDLESBROUGH INJURY BLOW

**M**iddlesbrough's Christian Ziege will not play for a month after damaging a thigh muscle during last week's win at Wimbledon.

The German international limped off at half-time to be replaced by Keith O'Neill. Manager Bryan Robson explained: "Christian will be out for two weeks which is a great shame."

"The injury is a result of playing two games in a short space of time without much preparation by way of match practice. I put him in against Bradford because he looked so fit and ready in training, it's just one of those things."

Ziege missed the game with Derby last Saturday, and will miss the home games against Liverpool and Leicester and probably the game at Villa Park on the Bank Holiday Saturday.

Middlesbrough then have a fortnight off.

"If he misses the Villa game then he will have had a fortnight to get over the injury and a fortnight to train properly and get fully fit, we'll just see how it goes," added the boss.



Christian Ziege: Thigh muscle injury.

# 'I'M NOT INTERESTED' SAYS F-ONE'S BERNIE

**B**ernie Ecclestone has denied rumours that he's tabled a bid to buy Everton.

The Liverpool Echo newspaper claimed the Formula One chief is ready to pay £30 million for the Premiership club, put under sale by controversial owner Peter Johnson.

But Ecclestone's office last week said there is absolutely no truth in the story and that the charismat-



ic Formula One supremo was not "in the slightest bit interested."

The Echo had claimed

that negotiations between Johnson and Ecclestone or his representatives would take place on Merseyside in the past few days.

The revelation came less than 24 hours after it was revealed that Bill Kenwright's long-mooted takeover bid for Everton was being rivalled by another local consortium led by meat and biscuits magnate Gerry White.



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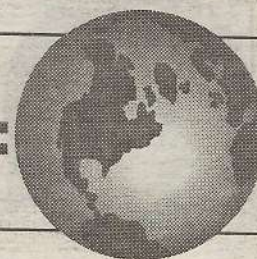
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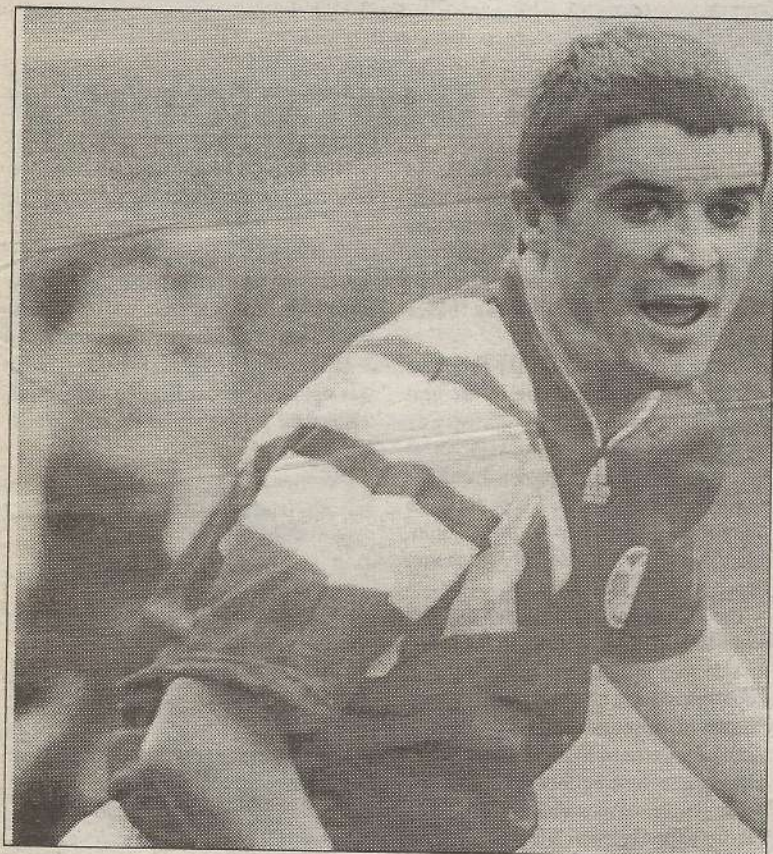


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## Keane: The news is no news



Roy Keane: Undecided about his future.

**R**oy Keane has announced the news about his failure to sign a new contract — and the news is there is no news.

The United captain issued a statement after last weekend's 2-0 victory over Leeds at Old Trafford — which read: "At the present time I am undecided as to my future after June of next year."

"Over the next few months

I will give proper and due consideration to the club's most recent proposal and I shall make a decision concerning my future at the end of this season.

"The new season commenced only a few days ago and it is my earnest wish to be allowed to continue as captain, free from the burden of continuous media and other speculation as to my future and to help this great club to what I hope will be further honours this season.

"I have a very good relationship with the supporters, my manager and the board of directors and I find it both distressing and embarrassing that any criticism whatsoever should be directed at the board and management of the club as a consequence of the recent negotiation."

"Contrary to media statements, I have not

sought a new contract from the club nor have I made any financial or other demands of the club," he said in his statement.

"It would be impertinent of me to do so having regard to the opportunities that the club has afforded to me. I love playing for Manchester United, the most successful football club in the world."

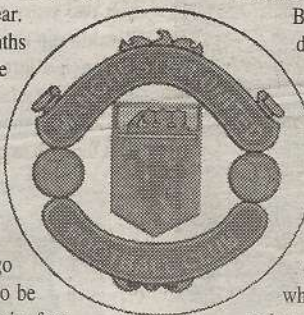
Boss Sir Alex Ferguson was delighted with the statement:

"I am absolutely happy. Between now and the end of the season I have time to talk to him and he can lead the club to future glory."

It's important he doesn't make a decision when he isn't ready. The matter's over. We have to wait till the end of the season now."

Manchester United also issued a statement, which read: "Manchester United is disappointed that Roy Keane is not signing a new contract now despite continual and substantial efforts since June of this year, but we understand his predicament."

"We are very hopeful that he will remain a United player for the rest of his career and that everyone associated with the club, particularly the supporters, will give him all the necessary encouragement to stay."



## Juventus Keane

**J**uventus are poised to snap up Irish international Roy Keane if he decides to leave Manchester United, Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper reported last Friday.

The paper quoted Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi as saying he had spoken to Keane's lawyer Michael Kennedy about a possible transfer either now or next June, when the player's contract at Old Trafford expires.

"Juventus have the right to know how things stand — to deny our rivals an advantage in the transfer market as much as anything else," Moggi said. "That's why I spoke to Kennedy."

"But I got the impression Keane would renew his contract at Manchester United and that's the end of the story as far as I'm concerned."



## Henry bides time

**F**rance coach Roger Lemerre said last week he was sure Thierry Henry would regain his best form with Arsenal but that he would have to do without the World Cup winger for the rest of his team's Euro 2000 qualifying campaign.

"During the World Cup he told me how much he wanted to play for Arsenal," Lemerre said.

"He has realised his dream and I know he's going to do well there, but he is not an option for France at the moment."



Henry, who joined Arsenal from Juventus two weeks ago, is unavailable for France's three remaining qualifiers in September and October because of a four-match suspension after being sent off playing for the French under-21 team last season.

He has not played for France's senior team since the World Cup semi-final victory over Croatia more than a year ago.

# ANELKA DROPPED

**N**icolas Anelka, still unfit after his protracted transfer from Arsenal to Real Madrid, has been dropped by world champions France for this Wednesday's friendly against Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Girondins Bordeaux midfielder Johan Micoud and Paris St-Germain striker Laurent Robert have been called up for the first time and coach Roger Lemerre has recalled Olympique Lyon winger Tony Vairelles and Bordeaux striker Lilian Laslandes.

Zinedine Zidane, who played his first match since knee cartilage surgery in May in Juventus's Intertoto Cup final first leg at home to Rennes last Wednesday, has also been left out along with fellow World Cup veterans Youri Djorkaeff and Christophe Dugarry.



Fabien Barthez: In the squad.

## SQUAD

### Goalkeepers:

Fabien Barthez (Monaco)  
Ulrich Rame Girondins (Bordeaux)

### Defenders:

Laurent Blanc (Inter Milan)  
Marcel Desailly (Chelsea)  
Franck Leboeuf (both Chelsea)  
Lilian Thuram (Parma)  
Bixente Lizarazu (Bayern Munich)  
Vincent Candela (AS Roma)

### Midfielders:

Alain Boghossian (Parma)  
Didier Deschamps (Chelsea)  
Johan Micoud (Bordeaux)  
Emmanuel Petit (Arsenal)  
Patrick Vieira (Arsenal)

### Forwards:

Robert Pires (Olympique Marseille)  
Sylvain Wiltord (Bordeaux)  
Lilian Laslandes (Bordeaux)  
Laurent Robert (Paris St-Germain)  
Tony Vairelles (Olympique Lyon)

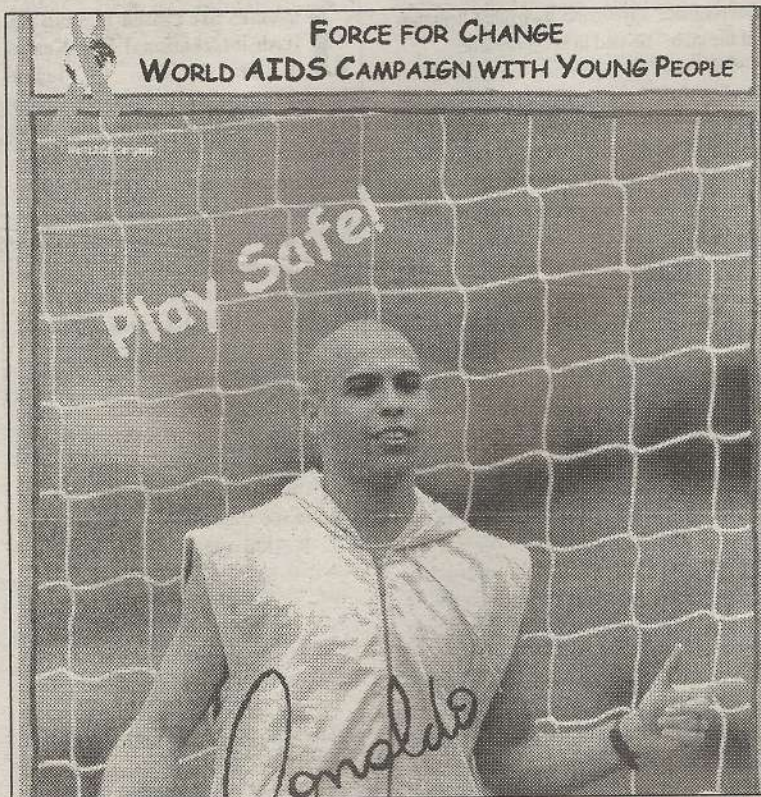


Nicolas Anelka: Has been dropped.





# DON'T MAKE SAME MISTAKE



Ronaldo: As he appears in an anti AIDS poster:

FORCE FOR CHANGE  
WORLD AIDS CAMPAIGN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

## Ronaldo warns Barcelona

**B**razilian striker Ronaldo has urged his former club Barcelona not to repeat the mistake they made with him two years ago and let his compatriot Rivaldo slip through their fingers.

Ronaldo left Barcelona after a single, highly successful season at the Nou Camp in 1996-97, shocking everyone connected with the club as he left to join Inter Milan.



Barcelona are now negotiating a new contract with Ronaldo's replacement, Rivaldo, who has reportedly received a lucrative offer from European champions Manchester United.

Rivaldo has pledged his future to Barcelona, saying he is happy with the

Spanish champions, but Ronaldo is still concerned that history might repeat itself and the Catalans may once again lose their best player.

"Barcelona made a mistake with me," Ronaldo told the Barcelona based newspaper Sport.

"They won't want to make the same mistake with Rivaldo, one of the best players in the world.

"I had also decided to stay on at Barcelona but I was disappointed with the way the club treated me. I hope the same thing doesn't happen with Rivaldo. "Barcelona need Rivaldo but Manchester United are also a great team.

The discussions will be tough and that could be good for Rivaldo," Ronaldo and Rivaldo were joint top scorers in the recent Copa America, with the former looking close to his best again after a difficult 12 months hampered by injury.

He is now looking forward to the new Italian league season, which will see him link up with Christian Vieri in the Inter attack.

"I'm in good shape at the moment. I've been training throughout the holidays," he said.

"I now want to have a good season in Italy, to win the championship, to keep my place in the national team and, if God is willing, stay clear of injury all season."

Looking further ahead, Ronaldo said he was optimistic about Brazil's chances of winning the nomination for the 2006 World Cup.



"Brazil has everything to be the favourites to win the nomination," he said, "although of course we respect the other candidates."

## DESCHAMPS ITALIAN DOPING PROBE

### Unusual readings in blood samples

**C**helsea's World Cup-winning midfielder Didier Deschamps will face fresh questioning in the Italian doping investigation, following the emergence of new evidence last week.

Italian television reported that senior judge Raffaele Guariniello will seek an interview with the French international, after analysis of blood samples taken during his last season at Juventus revealed unusual readings.

There is no immediate suggestion that Deschamps had used a banned substance, but Guariniello is keen to follow up on his latest findings, which also unearthed analogies in the sample of fellow Juventus and France star Zinedine Zidane.

Deschamps, who moved to Stamford

Bridge in the off-season, has already been questioned twice by the judge—appointed to look into allegations of blood doping made by former Roma coach Zdenek Zeman.

Ironically, Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli was one of the players Zeman named as having developed at an unusually rapid rate in his original allegations.

It is understood that the new evidence has been compounded by data gained from the

French national team's medical experts, who reportedly noted unusual readings when both Zidane and Deschamps

returned from Italy for international matches.



Didier Deschamps under investigations.

## More knee woes for Bati

**F**lorentina's Argentine international striker Gabriel Batistuta could be out of action for two weeks after he limped out of last Wednesday's Champions League qualifier with Poland's Widzew Lodz with a knee injury.

Batistuta was withdrawn after just six minutes of the game, which Fiorentina went on to win 3-1.

The sight of the sad Batistuta hobbling off the field prompted fears of a recurrence of the ligament injury that kept him out of action for a month last season.

Batistuta's absence in February was seen as a major factor in ending Fiorentina's hopes of lifting the Serie A title.

The latest injury is to the same left knee but the Fiorentina team doctor Marcello Manzuoli believes it is not a recurrence of the old injury.

"It is the same knee but last time it was an injury to the external ligament with a muscle strain, this time it is an internal ligament," he told the daily Corriere dello Sport.

Manzuoli said there was a slim chance Batistuta could be fit for the second leg in Poland on August 25th.

"If our first impressions are confirmed and we have a bit of luck Gabriel then could return for the second leg in Lodz, but clearly this is only a possibility," he added.



Gabriel Batistuta: Knee injury.





## CELTIC LIFT PROFIT

**S**cottish soccer club Celtic saw increased profits last season despite losing their title to rivals Rangers and failing to lift a trophy.

Celtic said last Friday its operating profit rose by a third to 6.75 million pounds (\$10.86 million). Celtic's turnover in the year to June 30 rose to 33.8 million pounds, an increase of 21 percent.

However, profit before tax was just 550,000 pounds as net gains from player sales shrank to just 347,000 from 7.41 million a year earlier.

Celtic said that wage costs rose last season by more than 16 percent to 14.5 million pounds.

The club warned that wage costs would increase substantially in the coming year



following moves to strengthen the first team.

Fergus McCann, Celtic's majority shareholder, stepped down as chairman and managing director earlier this year.

He has said he wants to sell his shares to existing shareholders and season ticket holders.

## 17,000 waiting list despite drought

**N**ewcastle United's famous Toon Army supporters will benefit when a massive £42m redevelopment transforms St James' Park into a 51,000-seat state-of-the-art stadium next season.

The demand for season tickets has never been greater, despite Newcastle's failure to land a major trophy since 1969, and the waiting list stands at a remarkable 17,000.

Now, major work will provide 15,000 extra seats by this time next year - with tickets costing up to £200 a match.

Plans to build a 60,000 stadium half-a-mile from the present ground were killed off by protesters. But Newcastle have decided on a huge project that offers lavish facilities.

Marketing director Alec King said the club had to play in front of bigger crowds or run the risk of falling behind richer Premiership rivals Arsenal and Manchester United. Banqueting and conference facilities will boost income further.

King said: "When it's all finished, 10 per cent of the crowd will be corporate or will have lounge facilities. Those 10 per cent will generate 40 per cent of our revenue. You could argue they are subsidising the

as the guys in grey suits who've got no interest in the game and only go to selected matches. It's not true that they're always Johnny Come Latelays who get the best seats.

"There is such a wide spectrum of support for football nowadays, from the Prime Minister down. There's no reason why chairmen of huge corporations can't love the game."

St James' will have 82 new executive boxes and an international lounge, with a deluxe day out running to £200 a time.

Work on the ground will be suspended 36 hours before every match, which will need the go-ahead of safety officers every time. But some fans will be exposed to the elements until January while roofing is fixed.

King said: "We had to go up to 50,000 capacity to compete. That still doesn't get everybody a seat who would want one, but we're continuing to work on that."



other 90 per cent.

"That might be hard for the fans to accept, because they look upon those people

## FA CUP DEAL ON HOLD

**T**he biggest sponsorship deal in the history of the Football Association has still not been signed — more than a year after it was agreed.

French insurance company AXA announced a £24 million, four-year deal to support the FA Cup last July.

Although they have paid their first annual instalment of £6m, AXA have not yet formalised the deal and they are unlikely to do so until they receive firm assurances that Manchester United's decision to withdraw from this season's FA Cup will not undermine the competition's long-term value.

AXA's decision not to sign was originally delayed by the FA's £15m tie-up with financial services rival Nationwide, which was announced in January — six months into their new agreement.

A spokesman for AXA confirmed there was not a contract with the company's signature on it and added: "We need an on-going dialogue with the FA so we understand their position."

"We are interested in finding a solution which allows United to take part in the FA Cup and we are still very hopeful that they will. But it has changed things as far as we are concerned."

AXA's stance is one of the factors behind the FA's efforts to find a solution to United's withdrawal from the competition to play in FIFA's World Club Cup next January.

The FA have already approached the Football League to ask if they could solve the problem by allowing United to drop out of the Worthington Cup.

That failed but the FA are still hopeful United may decide to use the full depth of



their squad and field a team in both competitions. They do not have to make a final decision until October.

AXA's deal with the FA is the biggest in their 10-strong "Football Associates" package.

Others include Nationwide, who sponsor the England team, and mobile phone network One2One, who back the Charity Shield.

Nine out of the 10 companies affiliated with the FA signed their agreements some time ago. AXA have not, even though they on the sponsorship team backing England's 2006 World Cup bid.

## COVENTRY ON THE HUNT

**C**oventry have targeted £2million Liverpool striker Karl-Heinz Riedle and £3.5m Frenchman Bruno Rodrigues as their top targets to replace Darren Huckerby.

Highfield Road manager Gordon Strachan made brief contact with West Bromwich Albion last week to enquire about Lee Hughes but was put off by the £6m asking price.

Now he is closing in on the 33-year-old German Riedle, who is playing third fiddle at Anfield to Titi Camara and Robbie Fowler in Michael Owen's continued absence.

Strachan is also watching Paris St-Germain's Rodrigues as he looks to fill



the gap left by Huckerby, who moved to Leeds for £5.5m last Wednesday.

Coventry scouts saw the 26-year-old score in pre-season games against Juventus and AC Milan and hope to complete his transfer by the start this week.



Karl-Heinz Riedle: Targeted by Gordon Strachan.

## BAD NEWS FOR RANGERS

**R**angers' worst fears for Stefan Klos were confirmed last week when Dick Advocaat forecast he could miss their momentous return match with Parma on Wednesday week.

The German goalkeeper picked up a knee injury in only the third minute of last week's 2-0 win at Ibrox and faces an absence which, according to his coach, could last up to a month.

"Stefan thinks he will be alright for the second game with Parma," admitted Advocaat.



"But I am not so sure and our doctor is not so sure either. We just have to wait and see. The injury is the kind that could take two to four weeks to heal."

It said much for Klos's resilience that he was able to finish the Parma match and make the superb save from Alain Boghossian which immediately preceded Rangers' second goal.

"We discussed the possibility of taking Stefan off at half-time but he was so determined to stay in goal," Advocaat said.



# HIGHEST TRANSFERS OF ALL TIME

**CHRISTIAN VIERI:**  
His last three transfers  
have been worth  
almost \$150m.



**ALAN SHEARER:**  
Once the most expensive  
player in the world.  
Now ranked No.9

| PLAYER            | YEAR | FROM             | TO              | FEE (\$m) |
|-------------------|------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Christian Vieri   | 1999 | Lazio            | Inter Milan     | \$77.0    |
| Nicolas Anelka    | 1999 | Arsenal          | Real Madrid     | \$54.0    |
| Denilson          | 1997 | Sao Paulo        | Real Betis      | \$53.5    |
| Vieri             | 1998 | Atletico Madrid  | Lazio           | \$43.0    |
| Ronaldo           | 1997 | Barcelona        | Inter Milan     | \$42.8    |
| Rivaldo           | 1997 | Deportivo        | Barcelona       | \$41.0    |
| Andriy Shevchenko | 1999 | Dynamo Kiev      | AC Milan        | \$38.0    |
| Alan Shearer      | 1996 | Blackburn        | Newcastle Utd   | \$36.0    |
| Gianluigi Lentini | 1992 | Torino           | AC Milan        | \$33.0    |
| Dwight Yorke      | 1998 | Aston Villa      | Manchester Utd  | \$31.5    |
| Ronaldo           | 1996 | PSV Eindhoven    | Barcelona       | \$30.5    |
| Marcelo Salas     | 1998 | River Plate      | Lazio           | \$30.0    |
| Juan Veron        | 1998 | Sampdoria        | Parma           | \$30.0    |
| Gianluca Vialli   | 1992 | Sampdoria        | Juventus        | \$30.0    |
| Vieri             | 1997 | Juventus         | Atletico Madrid | \$29.5    |
| Juninho           | 1997 | Middlesbrough    | Atletico Madrid | \$29.5    |
| Sonny Anderson    | 1997 | Monaco           | Barcelona       | \$29.5    |
| Ivan de la Pena   | 1998 | Barcelona        | Lazio           | \$26.0    |
| Thierry Henry     | 1999 | Juventus         | Arsenal         | \$25.0    |
| Chris Sutton      | 1999 | Blackburn Rovers | Chelsea         | \$24.0    |